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# **Astrodata Package Programmer's Manual**

***Release 1.0beta***

**Craig Allen**

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# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Document Brief

### 1.1.1 Revision History

- v1.0 - Document ready for internal review

### 1.1.2 Abbreviations Table

- HDU: Header-Data Unit
- MEF: Multi-Extension FITS
- PHU: Primary Header Unit
- URL: Uniform Resource Locator

### 1.1.3 Intended Audience

This document is intended for both new and experienced developers using `astrodatta`:

1. Users of the `astrodatta` package, in conjunction with the `astrodatta_Gemini` configuration package.
2. Developers creating new configuration packages (types, descriptors, and transformations), e.g. instrument developers.
3. Potential developers needing to understand the work involved prior to development (e.g. for making proposals).
4. Those trying to understand both what the system currently does, it's design philosophy, and where the package can or is expected to evolve.

### 1.1.4 Document Structure

This document is meant as an introductory programmer reference for Gemini Observatory's Python-based data processing package, `astrodatta`. It is intended to serve both as an introductory reference for the actual function interfaces of two primary classes in the `astrodatta` package, as well as a tool for new users to understand the general characteristics of the package. To this end this document contains three related but somewhat distinct sections:

- Two chapters presenting the API reference manuals for the `AstroData` and `ReductionContext` classes, respectively.
- A chapter on Creating an `AstroData` configuration Package, written as a hands-on startup guide.

- A chapter on the Concepts in the AstroData Infrastructure.

The `AstroData` class is a dataset abstraction for MEF files, while the `ReductionContext` is the interface for transformation primitives to communicate with the reduction system (eg. access files in the pipeline, parameter information, execution context, and so on including all communication with the system.)

The `astrodata` package includes only the infrastructure code, but is generally shipped with the `astrodata_Gemini` configuration package which contains all information and code regarding Gemini data types and type-specific transformations, and with the `astrodata_FITS` configuration package that contains standard FITS definitions. The `astrodata` package also ships with an auxillary package of useful functions in the form of the `gempy` package.

The term “astrodata” in this document can refer to three somewhat distinct aspects of the system. There is `AstroData` the class, which is distinguishable in print by the camel caps capitalization and is the core software element of the system. There is `astrodata` the importable python package, which from the user's point of view imports the configurations which are available in the environment, but which strictly speaking contains only the infrustructural code. And there is simply “Astrodata” a loose term for the whole package, including the configuration package and support library.



# ASTRODATA CLASS REFERENCE

The following is information about the `AstroData` class. For descriptions of arguments shown for the class constructor, see `AstroData.__init__(. .)`. This documentation is generated from in-source docstrings. To import the `AstroData` class use:

```
from astrodatab import AstroData
```

## 2.1 AstroData Class

```
class astrodatab.AstroData (dataset=None, mode='readonly', phu=None, header=None,  
                           data=None, store=None, storeClobber=False, exts=None, extIn-  
                           sts=None)
```

The `AstroData` class abstracts datasets stored in MEF files and provides uniform interfaces for working on datasets from different instruments and modes. Configuration packages are used to describe the specific data characteristics, layout, and to store type-specific implementations.

MEFs can be generalized as lists of header-data units (HDU), with key-value pairs populating headers, and pixel values populating the data array. `AstroData` interprets a MEF as a single complex entity. The individual “extensions” within the MEF are available using Python list (“[]”) syntax; they are wrapped in `AstroData` objects (see `AstroData.__getitem__()`). `AstroData` uses `pyfits` for MEF I/O and `numpy` for pixel manipulations.

While the `pyfits` and `numpy` objects are available to the programmer, `AstroData` provides analogous methods for most `pyfits` functionalities which allows it to maintain the dataset as a cohesive whole. The programmer does however use the `numpy.ndarrays` directly for pixel manipulation.

In order to identify types of dataset and provide type-specific behavior, `AstroData` relies on configuration packages either in the `PYTHONPATH` environment variable or the `Astrodata` package environment variables, `ADCONFIGPATH` and `RECIPEPATH`. A configuration package (eg. `astrodata_Gemini`) contains definitions for all instruments and modes. A configuration package contains type definitions, meta-data functions, information lookup tables, and any other code or information needed to handle specific types of dataset.

This allows `AstroData` to manage access to the dataset for convenience and consistency. For example, `AstroData` is able:

- to allow reduction scripts to have easy access to dataset classification information in a consistent way across all instruments and modes;
- to provide consistent interfaces for obtaining common meta-data across all instruments and modes;
- to relate internal extensions, e.g. discriminate between science and variance arrays and associate them properly;
- to help propagate header-data units important to the given instrument mode, but unknown to general purpose transformations.

In general, the purpose of `AstroData` is to provide smart dataset-oriented interfaces that adapt to dataset type. The primary interfaces are for file handling, dataset-type checking, and managing meta-data, but `AstroData` also integrates other functionalities.

## 2.2 Basic Functions

### 2.2.1 AstroData Constructor

```
AstroData.__init__(dataset=None, mode='readonly', phu=None, header=None, data=None,
                  store=None, storeClobber=False, exts=None, extInsts=None)
```

#### Parameters

- **dataset** (*string*, *AstroData*, *HDUList*) – the dataset to load, either a filename (string) path or URL, an `AstroData` instance, or a `pyfits.HDUList`
- **mode** (*string*) – IO access mode, same as `pyfits` mode (“readonly”, “update”, or “append”) with one additional `AstroData`-specific mode, “new”. If the mode is “new”, and a filename is provided, the constructor checks that the named file does not exist on disk, and if it does not it creates an empty `AstroData` of that name but does not write it to disk. Such an `AstroData` instance is ready to have HDUs appended, and to be written to disk at the user’s command with `ad.write()`.
- **phu** (*pyfits.core.Header*) – Primary Header Unit. This object is propagated to all `astrodata` sub-data `ImageHDUs`. Special handling is made for header instances that are passed in as this arg., where a phu will be created and the ‘.header’ will be assigned (ex. `hdulist[0]`, `ad.phu`, `ad[0].hdulist[0]`, `ad['SCI',1].hdulist[0]`, `ad[0].phu`, `ad['SCI',1].phu`, and all the previous with .header appended)
- **header** – extension header for images (eg. `hdulist[1].header`, `ad[0].hdulist[1].header`, `ad['SCI',1].hdulist[1].header`)
- **data** (*numpy.ndarray*) – the image pixel array (eg. `hdulist[1].data`, `ad[0].hdulist[1].data`, `ad['SCI',1].hdulist[1].data`)
- **store** (*string*) – directory where a copy of the original file will be stored. This is used in the special case where the filename is an URL to a remote fits file. Otherwise it has no effect.
- **storeClobber** (*boolean*) – remote file handling for existing files with the same name. If true will save, if not, will delete.
- **exts** (*list*) – (advanced) a list of extension indexes in the parent `HDUList` that this instance should refer to, given integer or (EXTNAME, EXTVER) tuples specifying each extension in the `pyfits` index space where the PHU is at index 0, the first data extension is at index 1, and so on. I.e. This is primarily intended for internal use when creating “sub-data”, which are `AstroData` instances that represent a slice, or subset, of some other `AstroData` instance.

NOTE: if present, this option will override and obscure the `extInsts` argument, in other word `extInsts` will be ignored.

Example of sub-data:

```
sci_subdata = ad["SCI"]
```

The sub-data is created by passing “SCI” as an argument to the constructor. The ‘sci\_subdata’ object would consist of its own `AstroData` instance referring to it’s own `HDUList`, but the HDUs in this list would still be shared (in memory) with the `ad` object, and appear in its `HDUList` as well.

- **extInsts** (*list of pyfits.HDU objects*) – (advanced) A list of extensions this instance should contain, specified as actual `pyfits.HDU` instances. NOTE: if the `exts` argument is also set, `extInsts` is ignored.

The `AstroData` constructor constructs an in-memory representation of a dataset. If given a filename it uses `pyfits` to open the dataset, reads the header and detects applicable types. Binary data, such as pixel data, is left on disk until referenced.

### 2.2.2 append(..)

`AstroData.append(moredata=None, data=None, header=None, auto_number=False, extname=None, extver=None, do_deepcopy=False)`

#### Parameters

- **moredata** (*pyfits.HDU, pyfits.HDUList, or AstroData*) – either an `AstroData` instance, an `HDUList` instance, or an `HDU` instance to add to this `AstroData` object. When present, `data` and `header` arguments will be ignored.
- **data** (*numpy.ndarray*) – `data` and `header` are used to construct a new `HDU` which is then added to the `HDUList` associated to the `AstroData` instance. The `data` argument should be set to a valid `numpy` array. If `moredata` is not specified, `data` and `header` must both be set.
- **header** (*pyfits.Header*) – `data` and `header` are used to construct a new `HDU` which is then added to the `HDUList` associated to `AstroData` instance. The `header` argument should be set to a valid `pyfits.Header` object. If `moredata` is not specified, `data` and `header` must both be set.
- **auto\_number** (*boolean*) – auto-increment the extension version, `EXTVER`, to fit file convention
- **extname** (*string*) – extension name as set in keyword `EXTNAME` (eg. 'SCI', 'VAR', 'DQ')
- **extver** (*int*) – extension version as set in keyword `EXTVER`
- **do\_deepcopy** (*boolean*) – deepcopy the input before appending. Might be useful when `auto_number` is `True` and the input comes from another `AD` object.

This function appends header-data units (HDUs) to the `AstroData` instance.

### 2.2.3 close(..)

`AstroData.close()`

The `close(..)` function will close the `HDUList` associated with this `AstroData` instance.

### 2.2.4 insert(..)

`AstroData.insert(index, moredata=None, data=None, header=None, auto_number=False, extname=None, extver=False, do_deepcopy=False)`

#### Parameters

- **index** (*integer or (EXTNAME,EXTVER) tuple*) – the extension index, either an `int` or `(EXTNAME, EXTVER)` pair before which the extension is to be inserted. Note, the first data extension is `[0]`, you cannot insert before the PHU. Index always refers to `Astrodata` Numbering system, `0 = HDU`

- **moredata** (*pyfits.HDU, pyfits.HDUList, or AstroData*) – Either an AstroData instance, an HDUList instance, or an HDU instance. When present, data and header will be ignored.
- **data** (*numpy.ndarray*) – data and header are used to construct a new HDU which is then added to the HDUList associated to the AstroData instance. The data argument should be set to a valid numpy array. If moredata is not specified, data and header must both be set.
- **header** (*pyfits.Header*) – data and header are used to construct a new HDU which is then added to the HDUList associated to AstroData instance. The header argument should be set to a valid pyfits.Header object. If moredata is not specified, data and header must both be set.
- **auto\_number** (*boolean*) – auto-increment the extension version, EXTVER, to fit file convention
- **extname** (*string*) – extension name as set in keyword EXTNAME (eg. 'SCI', 'VAR', 'DQ')
- **extver** (*int*) – extension version as set in keyword EXTVER
- **do\_deepcopy** (*boolean*) – deepcopy the input before appending. Might be useful when auto\_number is True and the input comes from another AD object.

This function inserts header-data units (HDUs) to the AstroData instance.

### 2.2.5 info(..)

`AstroData.info(oid=False, table=False, help=False)`

The info(..) function prints self.infostr() and is maintained for convenience and low level debugging.

### 2.2.6 infostr(..)

`AstroData.infostr(as_html=False, oid=False, table=False, help=False)`

#### Parameters

- **as\_html** (*bool*) – return as HTML formatted string
- **oid** (*bool*) – include object id
- **help** (*bool*) – include sub-data reference information

The infostr(..) function is used to get a string ready for display either as plain text or HTML. It provides AstroData-relative information, unlike the pyfits-forwarded function AstroData.info(), and so uses AstroData relative indexes, descriptors, and so on.

### 2.2.7 write(..)

`AstroData.write(filename=None, clobber=False, rename=None, prefix=None, suffix=None)`

#### Parameters

- **filename** (*string*) – name of the file to write to. Optional if the instance already has a filename defined, which might not be the case for new AstroData instances created in memory.
- **clobber** (*bool*) – This flag drives if AstroData will overwrite an existing file.
- **rename** (*bool*) – This flag allows you to write the AstroData instance to a new filename, but leave the 'current' name intact in memory.

- **prefix** – Add a prefix to filename.

type prefix: string :param suffix: Add a suffix to filename. type suffix: string

The write function acts similarly to the `pyfits HDUList.writeto(...)` function if a filename is given, or like `pyfits.HDUList.update(...)` if no name is given, using whatever the current name is set to. When a name is given, this becomes the new name of the `AstroData` object and will be used on subsequent calls to write for which a filename is not provided. If the `clobber` flag is `False` (the default) then `write(...)` throws an exception if the file already exists.

## 2.3 Type Information

`AstroData.is_type(*typenames)`

**Parameters** `typenames` – specifies the type name to check.

**Returns** `True` if the given types all apply to this dataset, `False` otherwise.

**Return type** `Bool`

This function checks the `AstroData` object to see if it is the given type(s) and returns `True` if so.

**Note** `AstroData.check_type(...)` is an alias for `AstroData.is_type(...)`.

`AstroData.get_types(prune=False)`

**Parameters** `prune (bool)` – flag which controls ‘pruning’ the returned type list so that only the leaf node type for a given set of related types is returned.

**Returns** a list of classification names that apply to this data

**Return type** list of strings

The `get_types(...)` function returns a list of type names, where type names are as always, strings. It is possible to ‘prune’ the list so that only leaf nodes are returned, which is useful when leaf nodes take precedence such as for descriptors.

Note: types are divided into two categories, one intended for types which represent processing status (i.e. RAW vs PREPARED), and another which contains a more traditional ‘typology’ consisting of a hierarchical tree of dataset types. This latter tree maps roughly to instrument-modes, with instrument types branching from the general observatory type, (e.g. ‘GEMINI’).

To retrieve only status types, use `get_status(...)`; to retrieve just typological types use `get_typology(...)`. Note that the system does not enforce what checks are actually performed by types in each category, that is, one could miscategorize a type when authoring a configuration package. Both classifications use the same `DataClassification` objects to classify datasets. It is up to those implementing the type-specific configuration package to ensure types related to status appear in the correct part of the configuration space.

Currently the distinction between status and typology is not used by the system (e.g. in type-specific default recipe assignments) and is provided as a service for higher level code, e.g. primitives and scripts which make use of the distinction.

`AstroData.get_status(prune=False)`

This function returns the set of type names (strings) which apply to this dataset and which come from the status section of the `AstroData` Type library. ‘Status’ classifications are those which tend to change during the reduction of a dataset based on the amount of processing, e.g. RAW vs PREPARED. Strictly, a ‘status’ type is any type defined in or below the status part of the `classification` directory within the configuration package. For example, in the Gemini type configuration this means any type definition files in or below the ‘astrodata\_Gemini/ADCONFIG/classification/status’ directory.

**Returns** a list of string classification names

**Return type** list of strings

`AstroData.get_typology (prune=False)`

This function returns the set of type names (strings) which apply to this dataset and which come from the typology section of the AstroData Type library. ‘Typology’ classifications are those which tend to remain with the data in spite of reduction status, e.g. those related to the instrument-mode of the dataset or of the datasets used to produce it. Strictly these consist of any type defined in or below the correct configuration directory, for example, in Gemini’s configuration package, it would be anything in the “astro-data\_Gemini/ADCONFIG/classification/types” directory.

**Returns** a list of classification name strings

**Return type** list of strings

## 2.4 Header Manipulations

Manipulations of headers, specifically retrieving and setting key-value pair settings in the header section of header-data units can be done directly using the AstroData header manipulation functions which cover both PHU and extension headers. For higher level metadata which is available for all types in the tree in a properly constructed configuration space, the metadata is retrieved with descriptor functions, accessed as members of the AstroData object.

To retrieve or set meta-data not covered by descriptors, one must read and write key-value pairs to the HDU headers at the lower-level. AstroData offers three pairs of functions for getting and setting header values, for each of three distinct cases. While it is possible to use the `pyfits.Header` directly (available via “`ad[..].header`”), it is preferable to use the AstroData calls which allow AstroData to keep type information up to date, as well as to update any other characteristics of the AstroData object which may need to be maintained when the dataset is changed.

The three distinct pairs of header access functions serve the following purposes:

- set/get headers in PHU.
- set/get headers in the single extension of a “single-HDU AstroData object”.
- set/get headers in an extension of a multi-HDU (aka “multi-extension”) AstroData instance. This requires specifying the extension index, and cannot be used to modify the PHU. HDU #0 is the first real header-data section in the MEF.

### 2.4.1 Set/Get PHU Headers

`AstroData.phu_get_key_value (key)`

**Parameters** `key (string)` – name of header value to retrieve

**Return type** string

**Returns** the key’s value as string or None if not present.

The `phu_get_key_value(..)` function returns the value associated with the given key within the primary header unit of the dataset. The value is returned as a string (storage format) and must be converted as necessary by the caller.

`AstroData.phu_set_key_value (keyword=None, value=None, comment=None)`

Add or update a keyword in the PHU of the AstroData object with a specific value and, optionally, a comment

**Parameters**

- **keyword (string)** – Name of the keyword to add or update in the PHU
- **value (int, float or string)** – Value of the keyword to add or update in the PHU

- **comment** (*string*) – Comment of the keyword to add or update in the PHU

## 2.4.2 Set/Get Single-HDU Headers

`AstroData.get_key_value` (*key*)

**Parameters** *key* (*string*) – name of header value to set

**Returns** the specified value

**Return type** *string*

The `get_key_value(..)` function is used to get the value associated with a given key in the data-header unit of a single-HDU `AstroData` instance (such as returned by iteration). The value argument will be converted to string, so it must have a string operator member function or be passed in as string.

**Note** Single extension `AstroData` objects are those with only a single header-data unit besides the PHU. They may exist if a single extension file is loaded, but in general are produced by indexing or iteration instructions, i.e.:

```
sead = ad[("SCI",1)]
```

```
for sead in ad["SCI"]: ...
```

The variable “sead” above is ensured to hold a single extension `AstroData` object, and can be used more conveniently.

`AstroData.set_key_value` (*key*, *value*, *comment=None*)

**Parameters**

- **key** (*string*) – name of data header value to set
- **value** (*int*, *float*, *string*) – value to apply to header
- **comment** (*string*) – value to be put in the comment part of the header key

The `set_key_value(..)` function is used to set the value (and optionally the comment) associated with a given key in the data-header of a single-HDU `AstroData` instance.

**Note** Single extension `AstroData` objects are those with only a single header-data unit besides the PHU. They may exist if a single extension file is loaded, but in general are produced by indexing or iteration instructions, i.e.:

```
sead = ad[("SCI",1)]
```

```
for sead in ad["SCI"]: ...
```

The variable “sead” above is ensured to hold a single extension `AstroData` object, and can be used more conveniently.

## 2.4.3 Set/Get Multiple-HDU Headers

`AstroData.ext_get_key_value` (*extension*, *key*)

**Parameters**

- **extension** (*int* or (*EXTNAME*, *EXTVER*) *tuple*) – identifies which extension, either an integer index or (*EXTNAME*, *EXTVER*) tuple
- **key** (*string*) – name of header entry to retrieve

**Return type** *string*

**Returns** the value associated with the key, or None if not present

This function returns the value from the given extension's header, with "0" being the first data extension. To get values from the PHU use `phu_get_key_value(..)`.

`AstroData.ext_set_key_value` (*extension=None, keyword=None, value=None, comment=None*)

Add or update a keyword in the header of an extension of the AstroData object with a specific value and, optionally, a comment. To add or update a keyword in the PHU of the AstroData object, use `phu_set_key_value()`.

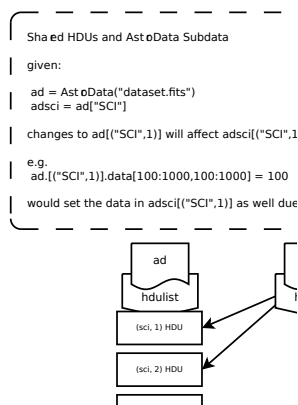
#### Parameters

- **extension** (*int or (EXTNAME, EXTVER) tuple*) – Name of the extension to add or update. The index [0] refers to the first extension in the AstroData object.
- **keyword** (*string*) – Name of the keyword to add or update in the extension
- **value** (*int, float or string*) – Value of the keyword to add or update in the extension
- **comment** (*string*) – Comment of the keyword to add or update in the extension

## 2.5 Iteration and Subdata

### 2.5.1 Overview

#### Using Slices and "Subdata"



AstroData instances are presented as lists of AstroData instances. However, internally the list is merely a list of extensions and the `AstroData.getitem(..)` function (which implements the "[" syntax) creates AstroData instances on the fly when called. Such instances share information in memory with their parent instance. This is in line with the general operation of pyfits and numpy, and in general how Python handles objects. This allows efficient use of memory and disk I/O. To make copies one must explicitly ask for copies. Thus when one takes a slice of a numpy array, that slice, although possibly of a different dimensionality and certainly of range, is really just a view onto the original memory, changes to the slice affect the original. If one takes a subset of an AstroData instance's HDUList, then the same HDUs are present in both the original and the sub-data. To make a separate copy one must use the `deepcopy` built-in function (see below).

As the diagram indicates, when taking a subset of data from an AstroData instance using the square brackets operator, you receive a newly created AstroData instance which is associated only with those HDUs identified. Changes to a shared HDU's data or header member will be reflected in both AstroData instances. Generally speaking this is what



you want for efficient operation. If you do want to have entirely separate data, such that changes to the data sections of one do not affect the other, use the python deepcopy operator:

```
1 from copy import deepcopy
2
3 ad = AstroData("dataset.fits")
4 scicopy = deepcopy(ad["SCI"])
```

If on the other hand all you want is to avoid changing the original dataset on disk, and do not need the original data, untransformed, in memory along with the transformed version, which is the usual case, then you can write the AstroData subdata instance to a new filename:

```
1 from astrodata import AstroData
2
3 ad = AstroData("dataset.fits")
4 scicopy = ad["SCI"]
5 scicopy.write("datasetSCI.fits")
```

## 2.5.2 count\_exts(..)

`AstroData.count_exts (extname=None)`

**Parameters** `extname` (*string*) – the name of the extension, equivalent to the value associated with the “EXTNAME” key in the extension header.

**Returns** number of extensions of that name

**Return type** `int`

The `count_exts(..)` function counts the extensions of a given name (as stored in the HDUs “EXTNAME” header).

## 2.5.3 The [] Operator

`AstroData.__getitem__ (ext)`

**Parameters** `ext` (*string, int, or tuple*) – The integer index, an indexing (`EXTNAME, EXTVER`) tuple, or `EXTNAME` name. If an `int` or tuple, the single extension identified is wrapped with an `AstroData` instance, and “single-extension” members of the `AstroData` object can be used. If a string, `EXTNAME`, is given, then all extensions with the given `EXTNAME` will be wrapped by the new `AstroData` instance.

**Returns** an `AstroData` instance associated with the subset of data.

**Return type** `AstroData`

This function supports the “[]” syntax for `AstroData` instances, e.g. `ad[("SCI", 1)]`. We use it to create `AstroData` objects associated with “subdata” of the parent `AstroData` object, that is, consisting of an `HDUList` made up of some subset of the parent MEF. e.g.:

```
from astrodata import AstroData

datasetA = AstroData("datasetMEF.fits")
datasetB = datasetA["SCI"]
```

In this case, after the operations, `datasetB` is an `AstroData` object associated with the same MEF, sharing some of the the same actual HDUs in memory as `datasetA`. The object in `datasetB` will behave as if the `SCI` extensions are its only members, and it does in fact have its own `pyfits.HDUList`. Note that `datasetA` and `datasetB` share the PHU and also the data structures of the HDUs they have in common, so that a change

to `datasetA[('SCI', 1)].data` will change the `datasetB[('SCI', 1)].data` member and vice versa. They are in fact both references to the same `numpy` array in memory. The `HDUList` is a different list, however, that references common HDUs. If a subdata related `AstroData` object is written to disk, the resulting MEF will contain only the extensions in the subdata's `HDUList`.

**Note** Integer extensions start at 0 for the data-containing extensions, not at the PHU as with `pyfits`. This is important: `ad[0]` is the first content extension, in a traditional MEF perspective, the extension AFTER the PHU; it is not the PHU! In `AstroData` instances, the PHU is purely a header, and not counted as an extension in the way that headers generally are not counted as their own elements in the array they contain meta-data for. The PHU can be accessed via the `phu` `AstroData` member or using the PHU related member functions.

## 2.6 Single HDU AstroData Attributes

### 2.6.1 data attribute

`AstroData.data`

The data property can only be used for single-HDU `AstroData` instances, such as those returned during iteration. It is a property attribute which uses `get_data(..)` and `set_data(..)` to access the data members with “=” syntax. To set the data member, use `ad.data = newdata`, where `newdata` must be a `numpy` array. To get the data member, use `npdata = ad.data`.

`AstroData.get_data()`

**Returns** data array associated with the single extension

**Return type** `pyfits.ndarray`

The `get_data(..)` member is the function behind the property-style “data” member and returns appropriate HDU's data member(s) specifically for the case in which the `AstroData` instance has ONE HDU (in addition to the PHU). This allows a single-extension `AstroData`, such as `AstroData` generates through iteration, to be used as though it simply is just the one extension, e.g. allowing `ad.data` to be used in place of the more esoteric and ultimately more dangerous `ad[0].data`. One is dealing with single extension `AstroData` instances when iterating over the `AstroData` extensions and when picking out an extension by integer or tuple indexing, e.g.:

```
for ad in dataset[SCI]:
    # ad is a single-HDU index
    ad.data = newdata

# assuming the named extension exists,
# sd will be a single-HDU AstroData
sd = dataset[("SCI", 1)]
```

`AstroData.set_data(newdata)`

**Parameters** `newdata` (`numpy.ndarray`) – new data objects

**Raises** `Errors.SingleHDUMemberExcept` if `AstroData` instance has more than one extension (not including PHU).

This function sets the data member of a data section of an `AstroData` object, specifically for the case in which the `AstroData` instance has ONE header-data unit (in addition to PHU). This case is assured when iterating over the `AstroData` extensions, as in:

```
for ad in dataset[SCI]:
    ...
```

## 2.6.2 header attribute

### `AstroData.header`

The header property can only be used for single-HDU `AstroData` instances, such as those returned during iteration. It is a property attribute which uses `get_header(..)` and `set_header(..)` to access the header member with the “=” syntax. To set the header member, use `ad.header = newheader`, where `newheader` must be a `pyfits.Header` object. To get the header member, use `hduheader = ad.header`.

`AstroData.get_header` (*extension=None*)

**Returns** header

**Return type** `pyfits.Header`

**Raises Errors.SingleHDUMemberExcept** Will raise an exception if more than one extension exists. (note: The PHU is not considered an extension in this case)

The `get_header(..)` function returns the header member for Single-HDU `AstroData` instances (which are those that have only one extension plus PHU). This case can be assured when iterating over extensions using `AstroData`, e.g.:

```
for ad in dataset[SCI]:
    ...
```

`AstroData.set_header` (*header, extension=None*)

**Parameters**

- **header** (*pyfits.Header*) – `pyfits` Header to set for given extension
- **extension** (*int or tuple, pyfits compatible extension index*) – Extension index to retrieve header, if `None` or not present then this must be a single extension `AstroData` instance, which contains just the PHU and a single data extension, and the data extension's header is returned.

**Raises Errors.SingleHDUMemberExcept** Will raise an exception if more than one extension exists.

The `set_header(..)` function sets the extension header member for single extension (which are those that have only one extension plus PHU). This case is assured when iterating over extensions using `AstroData`, e.g.:

```
for ad in dataset[SCI]: ...
```

## 2.6.3 Renaming an Extension

`AstroData.rename_ext` (*name, ver=None, force=True*)

**Parameters**

- **name** (*string*) – New 'EXTNAME' for the given extension.
- **ver** (*int*) – New 'EXTVER' for the given extension
- **force** (*boolean*) – ??? Default=True

Note: This member only works on single extension `AstroData` instances.

The `rename_ext(..)` function is used in order to rename an HDU with a new EXTNAME and EXTVER identifier. Merely changing the EXTNAME and EXTVER values in the extensions `pyfits.Header` are not sufficient. Though the values change in the `pyfits.Header` object, there are special HDU class members which are not updated.

**Warning** This function manipulates private (or somewhat private) HDU members, specifically 'name' and '\_extver'. STSCI has been informed of the issue and has made a special HDU function for performing the renaming. When generally available, this new function will be used instead of manipulating the HDU's properties directly, and this function will call the new `pyfits.HDUList(..)` function.

## 2.7 Module Level Functions

### 2.7.1 `correlate(..)`

`astrodata.data.correlate(*iary)`

**Parameters** *iary* (list of AstroData instance) – A list of AstroData instances for which a correlation dictionary will be constructed.

**Returns** a list of tuples containing correlated extensions from the arguments.

**Return type** list of tuples

The `correlate(..)` function is a module-level helper function which returns a list of tuples of Single Extension AstroData instances which associate extensions from each listed AstroData object, to identically named extensions among the rest of the input array. The `correlate(..)` function accepts a variable number of arguments, all of which should be AstroData instances.

The function returns a structured dictionary of dictionaries of lists of AstroData objects. For example, given three inputs, *ad*, *bd* and *cd*, all with three "SCI", "VAR" and "DQ" extensions. Given *adlist* = [*ad*, *bd*, *cd*], then *construct* = `correlate(adlist)` will return to *construct* a dictionary first keyed by the EXTNAME, then keyed by tuple. The contents (e.g. of *construct*["SCI"][1]) are just a list of AstroData instances each containing a header-data unit from *ad*, *bd*, and *cd* respectively.

**Info** to appear in the list, all the given arguments must have an extension with the given (EXTNAME,EXTVER) for that tuple.

### 2.7.2 `prep_output(..)`

`astrodata.data.prep_output(input_ary=None, name=None, clobber=False)`

**Parameters**

- **input\_ary** (list of AstroData Instances) – The input array from which propagated content (such as the source PHU) will be taken. Note: the zero-th element in the list is used as the reference dataset for PHU or other items which require a particular reference.
- **name** – File name to use for returned AstroData, optional.
- **clobber** (*bool*) – By default `prep_output(..)` checks to see if a file of the given name already exists, and will raise an exception if found. Set *clobber* to *True* to override this behavior and potentially overwrite the extant file. The dataset on disk will not be overwritten as a direct result of `prep_output`, which only prepares the object in memory, but will occur when the AstroData object returned is written (i.e. *ad.write(..)*).

**Returns** an AstroData instance initialized with appropriate header-data units such as the PHU, Standard Gemini headers and with type-specific associated data-header units such as binary table Mask Definition tables (MDF).

**Return type** AstroData

..info: File will not have been written to disk by `prep_output (..)`.

The `prep_output (..)` function creates a new `AstroData` object ready for appending output information (e.g. `ad.append (..)`). While you can also create an empty `AstroData` object by giving no arguments to the `AstroData` constructor (i.e. `ad = AstroData()`), `prep_output (..)` exists for the common case where a new dataset object is intended as the output of some processing on a list of source datasets, and some information from the source inputs must be propagated.

The `prep_output (..)` function makes use of this knowledge to ensure the file meets standards in what is considered a complete output file given such a combination. In the future this function can make use of dataset history and structure definitions in the `ADCONFIG` configuration space. As `prep_output` improves, scripts and primitives that use it will benefit in a forward compatible way, in that their output datasets will benefit from more automatic propagation, validations, and data flow control, such as the emergence of history database propagation.

Presently, it already provides the following:

- Ensures that all standard headers are in place in the new file, using the configuration .
- Copy the PHU of the reference image (`input_ary[0]`).
- Propagate associated information such as the MDF in the case of a MOS observation, configurable by the `Astrodata Structures` system.

### 2.7.3 `re_header_keys(..)`

`astrodata.data.re_header_keys (rekey, header)`

#### Parameters

- **rekey** (*string*) – a regular expression to match keys in header
- **header** (*pyfits.Header*) – a `pyfits.Header` object as returned by `ad[("SCI", 1)].header`

**Returns** a list of matching keys

**Return type** list of strings

This utility function returns a list of keys from the input header that match the regular expression.



# REDUCTIONCONTEXT CLASS REFERENCE

The following is information about the `ReductionContext` class. When writing primitives the reduction context is passed into the primitive as the sole argument (generally named `rc` by Gemini conventions and in addition to the `self` argument). This object is used by the primitive to both get inputs and store outputs, as well as to communicate with subsystems like the calibration queries system or list keeping for stacking.

## 3.1 Parameter and Dictionary Features

### 3.1.1 The “in” operator: `contains(..)`

`ReductionContext.__contains__` (*thing*)

**Parameters** *thing* (*str*) – A key to check for presence in the Reduction Context

The `__contains__` function implements the Python `in` operator. The `ReductionContext` is a subclass of a `dict`, but it also has a secondary dict of “local parameters” which are available to the current primitive only, which are also tested by the `__contains__(..)` member. These parameters will generally be those passed in as arguments to a primitive call from a recipe.

## 3.2 Dataset Streams: Input and Output Datasets

### 3.2.1 `get_inputs(..)`

`ReductionContext.get_inputs` (*style=None*)

**Parameters** *style* (*string*) – Controls the type of return value. Supported values are “AD” and “FN” for `AstroData` and `string` filenames respectively.

**Returns** a list of `AstroData` instances or `string` filenames

**Return type** `list`

`get_inputs(..)` gets the current input datasets from the current stream. You cannot choose the stream, use `get_stream(..)` for that. To report modified datasets back to the stream use `report_output(..)`.

### 3.2.2 `get_inputs_as_astrodata(..)`

`ReductionContext.get_inputs_as_astrodata()`

This function is equivalent to:

```
get_inputs(style="AD")
```

### 3.2.3 `get_inputs_as_filenames(..)`

`ReductionContext.get_inputs_as_filenames()`

This function is equivalent for:

```
get_inputs(style="FN")
```

### 3.2.4 `get_stream(..)`

`ReductionContext.get_stream(stream='main', empty=False, style=None)`

#### Parameters

- **stream** (*str*) – A string name for the stream in question. To use the standard stream do not set.
- **empty** (*bool*) – Controls if the stream is emptied, defaults to “False”.
- **style** – controls the type of output. “AD” directs the function to return a list of `AstroData` instances. “FN” directs it to return a list of filenames. If left blank or set to `None`, the `AstroDataRecord` structures used by the Reduction Context will be returned.

**Returns** a list of `AstroDataRecord` objects, `AstroData` objects or filenames.

**Return type** list

`get_stream` returns a list of `AstroData` instances in the specified stream.

### 3.2.5 `get_reference_image(..)`

`ReductionContext.get_reference_image()`

This function returns the current reference image. At the moment this is simply the first dataset in the current inputs. However, use of this function allows us to evolve our concept of reference image for more complicated cases where the choice of a “reference” image may need to be different (e.g. require some data analysis to determine).

### 3.2.6 `report_output(..)`

`ReductionContext.report_output(inp, stream=None, load=True)`

#### Parameters

- **inp** (*str, AstroData instance, or list*) – The inputs to report (add to the given or current stream). Input can be a string (filename), an `AstroData` instance, or a list of strings and/or `AstroData` instances. Each individual dataset is wrapped in an `AstroDataRecord` and stored in the current stream.
- **stream** (*str*) – If not specified the default (“main”) stream is used. When specified the named stream is created if necessary.



- **load** – A boolean (default: True) which specifies whether string arguments (pathnames) should be loaded into AstroData instances or if it should be kept as a filename, unloaded. This argument has no effect when “report” AstroData instances already in memory.

This function, along with `get_inputs ( . . )` allows a primitive to interact with the datastream in which it was invoked (or access other streams).

### 3.2.7 switch\_stream(..)

`ReductionContext.switch_stream (switch_to=None)`

**Parameters** **switch\_to** (*str*) – The string name of the stream to switch to. The named stream must already exist.

**Note** This function is used by the infrastructure (in an application such as reduce and in the ReductionContext) to switch the stream being used. Reported output then goes to the specified stream.

## 3.3 ADCC Services

## 3.4 Calibrations

### 3.4.1 get\_cal(..)

`ReductionContext.get_cal (data, caltype)`

Retrieve calibration.

**Parameters**

- **data** (*string or AstroData instance*) – File for which calibration must be retrieved.
- **caltype** (*string*) – The type of calibration (ex. 'bias', 'flat').

**Returns** The URI of the currently stored calibration or None.

**Return type** string or None

### 3.4.2 rq\_cal(..)

`ReductionContext.rq_cal (caltype, inputs=None, source='all')`

Create calibration requests based on raw inputs.

**Parameters**

- **caltype** (*str*) – The type of calibration. For example, 'bias' and 'flat'.
- **inputs** (*list of AstroData instances*) – The datasets for which to find calibrations, if not present or None current “inputs” are used.
- **source** – Directs what calibration service to contact, for future compatibility, currently only “all” is supported.

## 3.5 Stacking

### 3.5.1 `rq_stack_get(..)`

`ReductionContext.rq_stack_get (purpose='')`

**Parameters** `purpose` (*string*) – The purpose is a string prepended to the stackingID used to identify the list (see `get_list(..)`).

The stackingID (see IDFactory module) is used to identify the list. The first input in the `rc.inputs` list is used as the reference image to generate the stackingID portion of the list identifier.

The stackingID function in IDFactory is meant to produce identical stacking identifiers for different images which can/should be stacked together, e.g. based on program ID and/or other details. Again, see IDFactory for the particular algorithm in use.

**Note** a versioning system is latent within the code, and is added to the id to allow adaptation in the future if identifier construction methods change.

### 3.5.2 `rq_stack_update(..)`

`ReductionContext.rq_stack_update (purpose=None)`

**Parameters** `purpose` (*str*) – The purpose argument is a string prefixed to the generated stackingID. This allows two images which would produce identical stackingIDs to go in different lists, i.e. such as a fringe frame which might be prepended with “fringe” as the purpose.

This function creates requests to update a stack list with the files in the current `rc.inputs` list. Each will go in a stack based on its own stackingID (prepended with “purpose”).

**Note** this function places a message on an outbound message queue which will not be sent until the next “yield”, allowing the `ReductionObject` command clause to execute.

## 3.6 Lists

### 3.6.1 `list_append(..)`

`ReductionContext.list_append (id, files, cachefile=None)`

**Parameters**

- **id** (*string*) – A string that identifies to which list to append the filenames.
- **files** (*list of strings*) – A list of filenames to add to the list.
- **cachefile** (*string*) – Filename to use to store the list.

The caller is expected to supply `cachefile`, which in principle a value of “None” could mean the “default cachefile” this is not supported by the `adcc` as of yet. The desired behavior is for reduce instances running in the same directory to cooperate, and those running in separate directories be kept separate, and this is implemented by providing an argument for `cachefile` which is in a generated subdirectory (hidden) based on the startup directory for the reduce process.

The `adcc` will negotiate all contention and race conditions regarding multiple applications manipulating a list simultaneously in separate process.

### 3.6.2 get\_list(..)

`ReductionContext.get_list(id)`

**Parameters** *id* (*str*) – Lists are associated with arbitrary identifiers, passed as strings. See `IDFactory` for IDs built from standard `astrodata` characteristics.

The list functionality allows storing dataset names in a list which is shared by all instances of reduce running in a given directory. The list is kept by an `adcc` instance in charge of that sub-directory. The `get_list(..)` function retrieves a list that has already been requested via `rq_stack_get(..)` which initiates the interprocess request.

This function does not block, and if the stack was not requested prior to a yeild, prior to this call, then `None` or an out of date version of this list will be retrieved.

**Note** “get\_stack” calls `get_list` but takes a “purpose” to which it adds a stackingID as a suffix to the list identifier.

## 3.7 Utility

### 3.7.1 prepend\_names(..)

`ReductionContext.prepend_names(prepend, current_dir=True, filepaths=None)`

**Parameters**

- **prepend** (*string*) – The string to be put at the front of the file.
- **current\_dir** (*boolean*) – Used if the filename (`astrodata` filename) is in the current working directory.
- **filepaths** – If present, these file paths will be modified, otherwise the current inputs are modified.

**Returns** List of new prepended paths.

**Return type** list

Prepends a prefix string to either the inputs or the given list of filenames.

### 3.7.2 run(..)

`ReductionContext.run(stepname)`

**Parameters** *stepname* (*string*) – The primitive or recipe name to run. Note: this is actually compiled as a recipe. Proxy recipe names may appear in the logs.

The `run(..)` function allows a primitive to use the reduction context to execute another recipe or primitive.



---

# ASTRODATA CONFIGURATION PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

## 4.1 Elements

Instrument-mode specific behaviors available through the `AstroData` class are not implemented in the `astrodata` package itself, but are instead loaded from configuration packages. In the case of Gemini data the configuration package is a directory named `astrodata_Gemini`. This configuration path is found by `astrodata` by the containing directory appearing either on the `PYTHONPATH`, or on either of two `astrodata` environment variables, `RECIPEPATH` or `ADCONFIGPATH`.

The `astrodata` package searches for all directories named `astrodata_<anything>` in these environment variables. Though the configurations contain executable python, it is not meant to be imported as a regular python module but is loaded by the `astrodata` package.

### 4.1.1 The General Configuration Creation Process

1. Define a tree of `AstroDataTypes` identifying types of your data.
2. Create “descriptor” functions which calculate a particular metadata value for nodes of the `AstroDataType` tree defined, such as `gain` or `filter_name`.
3. Write Python member functions bundled into `PrimitivesSet` classes, which specifically understand your dataset.
4. Assemble primitives into sequential lists, which we call processing “recipes”.

Initially you will develop classifications for your data, and functions which will provide standard information, allowing you to use `AstroData`, e.g. in processing scripts. Then you will put your processing scripts in the form of “primitives” and collect these in “recipes” so they can be used for automated data reduction.

### 4.1.2 Configuration Elements Which Have To Be Developed

1. **AstroData Types** identify classifications of MEF datasets to which other features can be assigned. Types have requirements which must hold for an identified dataset and also information about the place of the type in an overall type hierarchy (e.g. The GMOS type is the parent of GMOS\_IMAGE).
2. **AstroData Descriptors** are functions which calculate a particular type of metadata which is expected to be available for all datasets throughout the type hierarchy. Examples from the Gemini configuration package are `gain` and `filtername`. Different instruments store information about the gain in unique headers, and may

even require lookup tables not located in the dataset. Descriptors are type-appropriate functions assigned at runtime to the astrodata instance, allowing type-specific implementations to manage these peculiarities.

3. **Primitives** are dataset transformations meant to run in the Recipe System. Primitives are implemented as python generator functions in sets of primitives that apply to a common AstroDataType.
4. **Recipes** are lists of primitives stored in plain text which can be executed by the AstroData Recipe System. While primitives work on the `Reduction Context` explicitly, the reduction context is implicit in recipes so that recipes can arguably be considered to contain “scientifically meaningful” steps with no “software artifacts”.

## 4.2 Creating A Configuration Package

### 4.2.1 Preparation

For this work it is required that the Gemini Python AstroData package already be installed and functional. In general the Gemini AstroData configuration package(s) will already be installed somewhere on the PYTHONPATH, and Gemini Python scripts such as `reduce` and `typewalk` will be on the system path. Installations from SVN will require that the `astrodata/scripts` package directory be added to the PATH.

### 4.2.2 Clone the Sample Package

The easiest, and recommended way to start a new configuration package is by copying the `astrodata_Sample` package. The sample configuration package is located in `astrodata/sample/astrodata_Sample`. Copy this directory to a development workspace as in the following example, where `<ad_install_dir>` should be the directory in which the `astrodata` package is installed:

```
cd /home/username
mkdir workspace
cd workspace

cp -r <ad_install_dir>/astrodata/samples/astrodata_Sample .
```

Note that `<ad_install_dir>` should already be on the PYTHONPATH.

The name of the destination can, of course, be other than `astrodata_Sample`, and it can be changed later as well. For a real package it must be changed, and though not strictly necessary, the `ADCONFIG_Sample` and `RECIPES_Sample` should have “Sample” changed to something unique which matches the parent `astrodata_<whatever>` directory. So long as the `ADCONFIG_` and `RECIPES_` portion of the name is present no other aspect of the configuration will have to change. However, every configuration package wherever on the path must have a unique name.

You must also ensure that the new directory *containing* `astrodata_Sample` is in either `ADCONFIGPATH` or `RECIPATH`, or alternately for convenience (i.e. when installing packages via `setup.py`) in the PYTHONPATH. If you are following the above steps, you are in the directory to which `astrodata_Sample` was copied. Add this directory to the `RECIPATH` so your copy of `astrodata_Sample` can be found:

```
export RECIPATH=$(pwd):$RECIPATH
```

You can now test that `astrodata_Sample` is being discovered by the `astrodata` package by running a tool from the `astrodata/scripts` directory which should have been installed to system bin directories by the `setup.py` process.

Assuming that you are working in the test data directory, with a subdirectory named `source_data` into which you have copied at least one fits file. For these examples, we assume for convenience your file is named `test.fits`:

```
cd ~
mkdir test_data
cd test_data
mkdir source_data
cp <somepath>/test.fits source_data
```

We'll assume you are working in this directory for the rest of the example. To see if the types from `astrodata_Sample` are discovered, type:

```
typewalk -c
```

This will generate output like the following:

```
directory: . (/home/dpd/test_data)
test.fits ..... (CAL) (GEMINI) (GEMINI_NORTH) (GMOS)
..... (GMOS_CAL) (GMOS_IMAGE)
..... (GMOS_IMAGE_FLAT) (GMOS_N) (GMOS_RAW)
..... (IMAGE) (MARKED) (OBSERVED) (RAW)
..... (UNPREPARED)
```

A line should show up for `test.fits` and any other fits files in the current directory **and** any subdirectory listing the AstroData types which apply to the dataset. The list will contain some Gemini types, such as RAW and UNPREPARED, and if the data in question is Gemini data, types associated with the instrument-mode and processing status.

However, it should also include two types from the sample configuration, UNMARKED (or possibly MARKED if the dataset has been manipulated by the Sample package previously), and OBSERVED.

## 4.3 Creating An AstroDataType

### 4.3.1 Overview

AstroData types are defined in Python classes located in either of two path locations in the configuration package:

```
* ``astrodata_Sample/classification/types`` - for typological types
* ``astrodata_Sample/classification/status`` - for types related to processing status.
```

The type definition syntax is equivalent in both cases, the distinction is only for organization between two sorts of dataset classification:

1. Classifications that characterize instrument-modes or generic *types* of dataset.
2. Classifications that characterize the processing state of data.

For example, from the `astrodata_Gemini` configuration, the RAW and PREPARED are “processing types” in `astrodata_Gemini/status/...`, whereas NICI, GMOS and GMOS\_IMAGE are “typological types” located in the `astrodata_Gemini/status/...` subdirectory directory.

Since we don't know anything about the instrument or mode that this custom package is being developed for, the sample package will add some somewhat artificial example types as processing types, provided as examples in the sample package that will demonstrate the point in general. For more complicated examples of type requirements, we'll use examples from `astrodata_Gemini`.

### 4.3.2 The Class Definition Line by Line

To inspect the types in the custom package change directory to `astrodata_Sample/classifications/status` and get a directory listing:

```
cd <base_path>/astrodata_Sample/classifications/status
cat adtype.UNMARKED.py
```

The contents of the file should be as below:

```
1  class UNMARKED(DataClassification):
2      name="UNMARKED"
3      usage = "Processing Type for data not yet 'marked'."
4      parent = "OBSERVED"
5      requirement = PHU({"{prohibit}THEMARK":'.*'})
6
7  newtypes.append(UNMARKED())
```

Note that type source files are read into memory and executed in a prepared environment. Thus there is no need to import the `DataClassification` class from the particular `astrodata` module, this standard base class is already in scope.

The two elements are the class itself and the `newtypes.append(UNMARKED())` line which instantiates an object of the class and appends it to a list that the `ClassificationLibrary` can use to inspect datasets. The `ClassificationLibrary` uses the `newtypes` list to receive types defined in the module, allowing multiple types to be added to this list in a single type module if desired. At Gemini we have decided to have just one type definition per python type file.

1. `class UNMARKED(DataClassification):`: By convention, we name the class identically to the chosen string name, in this case `UNMARKED`, however this is not required by the system.
2. `name="UNMARKED"`: The classification name property stores the string used by the system to identify the type. NOTE: when using type functionality, the user never sees the classification object, and deals with types as strings.
3. `usage="Processing Type for data not yet 'marked'."`: This is used for automatically generated documentation.
4. `parent="OBSERVED"`: This is the type name of a parent class. Note, the type need not also be recognizes as the parent type. The parent member is used to determine overriding assignments in the type tree such that, of course, leaf nodes override root nodes, e.g. for descriptor calculator and primitive set assignments.
5. `requirement = PHU({"{prohibit}THEMARK":'.*'})`: The requirement member uses requirement classes (see below) to define the given type. In this case, this is a PHU check to ensure that the header keyword "THEMARK" is not set at all in the PHU.
6. `newtypes.append(UNMARKED())`: This line appends an object instance of the new class to a pre-defined `newtypes` array variable. Note, this name is the **class name** from line 1, not the type name, though by convention in Gemini AstroData Types we use the type name as the class name.

### 4.3.3 The Requirement Classes

The requirement member of a type classification is intended to be declared with an expression built from requirement classes. Again, the type definition is evaluated in a controlled environment and these classes, as well as aliases for convenience, are already in scope.

#### Concrete Requirements

Concrete Requirements are those that make actual physical checks of dataset characteristics.



Requirement Type	Alias	Description
ClassReq	ISCLASS	For ensuring this type is also some other classification
PhuReq	PHU	Checks a PHU key/value header against a regular expression.

Object Oriented design enables us to extend requirement class ability and/or create new requirements. Examples: the current PHU requirement checks values only against regular expressions, it could be expanded to make numerical comparisons (e.g. to have a dataset type dependent on seeing thresholds). Another example that we anticipate needing is a requirement class that checks header values in extensions.

Currently all type checking resolves to PHU checks, see below for a description of the PHU requirement object.

### ISCLASS(other\_class\_name)

The ISCLASS requirement accepts a string name and will cause the classification to check if the other type applies. Circular definitions are possible and the configuration author must ensure such do not exist.

ISCLASS example:

```
class GMOS(DataClassification):
    name="GMOS"
    usage = '''
        Applies to all data from either GMOS-North or GMOS-South instruments in any mode.
    '''
    parent = "GEMINI"
    requirement = ISCLASS("GMOS_N") | ISCLASS("GMOS_S")

    # equivalent to...
    # requirement = OR(
    #     ClassReq("GMOS_N"),
    #     ClassReq("GMOS_S")
    # )

newtypes.append( GMOS() )
```

Since there are in fact two GMOS instruments at Gemini, one in Hawaii, one in Chile, the GMOS type really means checking that one of these two instruments was used.

---

**Note:** This is also an example of use of the OR requirement, and specifically a convenience feature allowing the “|” symbol to be used for pair-wise or-ing. The included comment shows another form using the OR object constructor which allows more than two operands to be listed.

---

### PHU(keyname=re\_val, [keyname2=re\_val2 [...]])

The PHU requirement accepts any number of arguments. Each argument name is used as the PHU key name, and the value is a regular expression against which the header value will be compared.

An example:

```
class GMOS_NODANDSHUFFLE(DataClassification):
    name="GMOS_NODANDSHUFFLE"
    usage = "Applies to data from a GMOS instrument in Nod-And-Shuffle mode"
    parent = "GMOS"
    requirement = PHU(NODPIX='.*')

newtypes.append(GMOS_NODANDSHUFFLE())
```

It is also possible to prohibit a match, and to use regular expressions for key matching using a special syntax for the key name. This is done by prepending an instruction to the key name, but also requires passing arguments to the PHU object constructor in a different way. For example the following requirement checks to ensure that the PHU key MASKNAME *does not* match "IFU\*":

```
PHU({{"prohibit"}MASKNAME": "IFU*"})
```

Note that in this case the arguments are passed to the PHU object constructor as a dictionary. The keys in the dictionary are used to match PHU keys, and the values are regular expressions which will be compared to PHU values.

Generally, Python helps instantiating the PHU object by turning the constructor parameter names and their settings into the keys and values of the dictionary it uses internally. However, Python does not like special characters like "{" in argument names, so to use the extended key syntax requires passing the dictionary.

To use regular expressions in key names (which is also considered dangerous and prone to inefficiency), use the following syntax:

```
class PREPARED(DataClassification):

    name="PREPARED"
    usage = 'Applies to all "prepared" data.'
    parent = "UNPREPARED"
    requirement = PHU( {'{re}.*?PREPARE': ".*?" })

newtypes.append(PREPARED())
```

Due to our legacy reduction software conventions, Gemini datasets which have been run through the system will have a keyword of the sort "<x>PREPARE" with a value set to a time stamp. The need for caution is due to, one, efficiency, since the classification must cycle through all headers to see if the regular expression matches, and two, this technique is prone to a name collision, i.e. in our example above... if a PHU happens to have a key matching "\*PREPARE" for some other reason than having been processed by the Gemini Package.

Please use this feature with caution.

## Logical Requirement Classes

The logical requirement classes use OO design to behave like requirement operators, returning true or false based on a combination of requirements given as arguments.

Requirement Type	Alias	Description
AndReq	AND	For comparing two other requirements with a logical and
NotReq	NOT	For negating the truth value of another requirement
OrReq	OR	For comparing two other requirements with a logical or

**AND(<requirement>,<requirement> [, <requirement> [, <requirement> ] .. ])**

The AND requirement accepts other requirements as arguments. At least two arguments are needed for the AND to be sensible, but if more are present they are also checked for truth value.

It is possible also to use the "&" operator as a logical "and":

```
requirement = AND(PHU("key1", "val1"), PHU("key2", "val2"))
```

...is equivalent to:

```
requirement = PHU("key1", "val1") & PHU("key2", "val2")
```

**NOT(<requirement>)**

The NOT requirement accepts a single other requirement as arguments. “NOT” is used to negate some requirement. For example at Gemini we do not view a GMOS\_BIAS as a GMOS\_IMAGE, but it does satisfy the requirements of GMOS\_IMAGE. The need for a separate type is due to the fact that GMOS\_IMAGE and GMOS\_BIAS require different automated reduction (e.g. in a pipeline deployment). To accomplish this we add a NOT requirement to GMOS\_IMAGE:

```
class GMOS_IMAGE(DataClassification):
    name="GMOS_IMAGE"
    usage = """
        Applies to all imaging datasets from the GMOS instruments
        """
    parent = "GMOS"
    requirement = AND([ ISCLASS("GMOS"),
                       PHU(GRATING="MIRROR"),
                       NOT(ISCLASS("GMOS_BIAS")) ])

newtypes.append(GMOS_IMAGE())
```

**OR(<requirement>,<requirement> [, <requirement> [, <requirement> ] .. ])**

The OR requirement accepts other requirements as arguments. At least two arguments are needed for the OR to be sensible, but if more are present they are also checked for truth value.

It is possible also to use the “|” operator as a logical “or”:

```
requirement = OR(PHU("key1", "val1"), PHU("key2", "val2"))
```

...is equivalent to:

```
requirement = PHU("key1", "val1") | PHU("key2", "val2")
```

## 4.4 Creating a New Descriptor

The Descriptor implementations are defined in the `astrodata_Sample/ADCONFIG_Sample/descriptors` directory tree. A descriptor configuration requires the following elements:

1. There must be a “Calculator” object in which the descriptor function must be defined (as a method).
2. The Calculator class must appear in a “calculator index”, which are any files in the `descriptors` directory tree named `calculatorIndex.<whatever>.py` where `<whatever>` can be any unique name.
3. The descriptor must be listed in the `DescriptorsList.py` file.

### 4.4.1 The Calculator Class

The Calculator Class in the Sample package is, for the OBSERVED type, in the file `OBSERVED_Descriptors.py`. That file is located in the `descriptors` subdirectory of the `ADCONFIG_Sample` of the `astrodata_Sample` package. It contains just one example descriptor function, `observatory` which relies on the standard MEF PHU key, `OBSERVAT`:

```
class OBSERVED_DescriptorCalc:
    def observatory(self, dataset, **args):
        return dataset.get_phu_key_value("OBSERVAT")
```

In order for this function to be called for the right type of data, this class must appear in a “calculator index”.

## 4.4.2 The Calculator Index

The Calculator Index for `astrodata_Sample` is located in the file, `calculatorIndex.Sample.py`, in the `descriptors` subdirectory of `ADCONFIG_Sample` in the `astrodata_Sample` configuration package.

Here is the source:

```
calculatorIndex = {
    "OBSERVED": "OBSERVED_Descriptors.OBSERVED_DescriptorCalc()",
}
```

Note, the sample index also contains detailed instructions about the format but for our purposes the index should be clear enough. The dictionary key is the string name of a defined AstroData Type, and the value is the class name, including the module it is defined in. The system will parse this name and import the `OBSERVED_Descriptors` module, then store the class in a calculator dictionary.

## 4.4.3 The DescriptorList.py

The `DescriptorList.py` file contains a list of descriptors definitions. The entries declared must at least declare the name of the new descriptor function. The infrastructure will use these names to create a bridge between AstroData instances and the type-specific descriptor functions.

Adding a New Descriptor to the configuration involves:

1. Adding a “DescriptorDescriptor” to the `DescriptorList.py` file.
2. Adding the descriptor function to the appropriate Descriptor Calculator class.

### The DescriptorList.py File

The contents of `DescriptorList.py` is a list of “DD” object constructors, as follows from the `astrodata_Sample` package:

```
[
    DD("observatory"),
]
```

To add a descriptor named “telescope” we’d add the following line to the `DescriptorList.py` file:

```
DD("telescope")
```

This tells the infrastructure the name of the descriptor, and in more complicated cases can provide other descriptor metadata to the infrastructure. The final file would look as follows:

```
[
    DD("observatory"),
    DD("telescope")
]
```

## Adding the Descriptor Function to the CalculatorClass

To add the descriptor once the descriptor is present in the `DescriptorList.py` one merely needs to add a function to the appropriate `DescriptorCalculator` class. The contents of `OBSERVED_Descriptors.py` module in the `astrodata_Sample` configuration is:

```
class OBSERVED_DescriptorCalc:
    def observatory(self, dataset, **args):
        return dataset.get_phu_key_value("OBSERVAT")
```

To add the “telescope” descriptor means adding another function to this class:

```
def telescope(self, dataset, **args):
    return dataset.get_phu_key_value("TELESCOP")
```

All descriptors should have the same function signature, including `self`, a `dataset` argument and `**args` to catch all named arguments. The latter is required by the infrastructure so that unexpected parameters can be sent to all descriptor algorithms, some of which may be handled by the infrastructure on behalf of the descriptor function.

## 4.5 Creating Recipes and Primitive

Primitives are basic transformations. Since different dataset types will sometimes require different concrete implementations of code to perform the requested step, the primitive names are shared system-wide, with type-specific implementations.

A “recipe” is a text file containing one primitive (or other recipe) per line. It is thus a sequential view of a reduction or data analysis process. It contains no branching explicitly, but since primitives can be implemented for particular dataset types, there is implicit branching based on dataset type.

### 4.5.1 Understanding Primitives

Primitives are bundled together in type-specific batches. Thus, for our Sample types of `OBSERVED`, `MARKED`, and `UNMARKED`, each would have its own primitive set. Generally, any given dataset must have exactly one appropriate primitive set per package, which is resolved through the `parent` member of the `AstroDataType`. Leaf node primitive set assignments override parent assignments.

Which primitive set is to be loaded for a given type is specified in index files. Index files and primitive sets must appear in `astrodata_Sample/RECIPES_Sample`, or any subdirectory of this directory. Any arrangement of files into subdirectories below this directory is acceptable. However, by convention Gemini put all “primitive set” modules in the `primitives` subdirectory and put only recipes in this top directory.

The `astrodata` package essentially flattens these directories; moving files around does not affect the configuration or require changing the content of any files, with the exception that the primitive parameter file must appear in the same location as the primitive set module itself.

### Primitive Indices

The `astrodata` package recursing a `RECIPES_XYZ` directory will look at each filename, if it matches the primitive index naming convention, `primitivesIndex.<unique_name>.py`, it will try to load the contents of that file and add it to the internal primitive set index. Below is an example of a primitive index file which contributes to the central index:

```
localPrimitiveIndex = {
    "OBSERVED": ("primitives_OBSERVED.py", "OBSERVEDPrimitives"),
    "UNMARKED": ("primitives_UNMARKED.py", "UNMARKEDPrimitives"),
    "MARKED" : ("primitives_MARKED.py", "MARKEDPrimitives"),
}
```

The dictionary in the file must be named “localPrimitiveIndex”. The key is the type name and the value is a tuple containing the primitives’ module basename and the name of the class inside the file, respectively, as strings. These are given as strings because they are only evaluated into Python objects if needed.

There can be multiple primitive indices. As mentioned each index file merely updates a central index collected from all installed packages. The index used in the end is the union of all indices.

Within the sample primitive set, `primitives_OBSERVED.py`, you will find something like the following:

```
from astrodata.ReductionObjects import PrimitiveSet

class OBSERVEDPrimitives(PrimitiveSet):
    astrotuple = "OBSERVED"

    def init(self, rc):
        print "OBSERVEDPrimitives.init(rc)"
        return

    def typeSpecificPrimitive(self, rc):
        print "OBSERVEDPrimitives::typeSpecificPrimitive()"

    def mark(self, rc):
        for ad in rc.get_inputs_as_astrodata():
            if ad.is_type("MARKED"):
                print "OBSERVEDPrimitives::mark(%s) already marked" % ad.filename
            else:
                ad.phu_set_key_value("THEMARK", "TRUE")
        yield rc

    def unmark(self, rc):
        for ad in rc.get_inputs_as_astrodata():
            if ad.is_type("UNMARKED"):
                print "OBSERVEDPrimitives::unmark(%s) not marked" % ad.filename
            else:
                ad.phu_set_key_value("THEMARK", None)
        yield rc
```

Adding another primitive is merely a matter of adding another function to this class. No other index needs to change since it is the primitive set class itself, not the primitives, that are registered in the index. However, note that primitives are implemented with “generator” functions. This type of functions is a standard Python feature. For purposes of writing a primitive all you need to understand about generators is that instead of a “return” statement, you will use `yield`. Like return statement the `yield` statement accepts a value, and as with “returning a value” a generator “yields a value”. For primitives this value must be the reduction context passed in to the primitive.

A generator can have many `yield` statements. The `yield` gives temporary control to the infrastructure, and when the infrastructure is done processing any outstanding duties, execution of the primitive resumes directly after the `yield` statement. To the primitive author it is as if the `yield` is a `pass` statement, except that the infrastructure may process requests made by the primitive prior to the `yield`, such as a calibration request.

### 4.5.2 Recipes

Recipes should appear in the `RECIPES_<XYZ>` subdirectory, and have the naming convention `recipe.<whatever>`. A simple recipe using the sample primitives is:

```
showInputs(showTypes=True)
mark
typeSpecificPrimitive
showInputs(showTypes=True)
unmark
typeSpecificPrimitive
showInputs(showTypes=True)
```

With this file, named `recipe.markUnmark`, in the `RECIPES_Sample` directory in your test data directory you can execute this recipe with the `reduce` command:

```
reduce -r markUnmark test.fits
```

The `showInputs` primitive is a standard primitive, and the argument `showTypes` tells the primitive to display type information so we can see the affect of the sample primitives. The `typeSpecificPrimitive` is a sample primitive with different implementations for “MARKED” and “UNMARKED”, which prints a message to demonstrate which implementation has been executed.





---

# CONCEPTS

## 5.1 Background

### 5.1.1 Dataset Abstraction

The `AstroData` class traces back to a request by Gemini Astronomers to “handle MEFs better” in our reduction package. A *Multi-Extension FITS*, or *MEF* is the standard storage format that Gemini adopted for its datasets. Investigation showed that the MEF libraries were sufficient for handling MEFs as such and the real meaning of the request was for a better dataset abstraction for Gemini’s datasets. Gemini MEFs, and MEFs in general, are usually meant to be coherent collections of data; the separate pixel arrays, or extensions, are collocated in a common MEF for that reason. The MEF abstraction itself does not recognize these connections, however, and views the MEF as a list of separate header-data units, their only relation being collocation in the list. Even the Primary Header Unit, PHU, which has certain artifacts as a special header, generally not having pixel data, and which is used as a file-wide header, is merely presented as the header-data unit at index 0. `AstroData` relies on one pair of relational meta-data available in MEF which is indexing of the list of datasets with (EXTNAME, EXTVER) tuple. EXTNAME operates as an extension-type specifier, and EXTVER serves to associate the extension with other extensions (e.g. by convention (“VAR”,2) is the variance plane for (“SCI”, 2).

FITS libraries (e.g. `pyfits`) return opened MEFs as objects which act as lists of Header-Data Units, or *extensions*. `AstroData` on the other hand is designed to be configured to recognize many internal connections that MEF does not directly encode. `AstroData` detects the type of the data, and then can make assumptions about what the data is and how to handle it. Any particular (Python-level) actions on the data are then performed by implementations in the configuration space.

### 5.1.2 Meta-Data

An additional role of the `AstroData` abstraction is to standardize access to metadata. FITS allows copious metadata in each extension and in the shared Primary Header Unit (PHU), but it standardizes only a small subset of what sort of information is stored there. Many properties which are for Gemini essentially universal properties for all of our datasets, across instruments and modes, are not standardized by FITS. For different instruments and modes these bits of information are distributed across different header key-value pairs and stored in different units. This leads to a situation where there is information that is in principle available in all datasets, but which requires instrument-mode-specific coding to be retrieved in a particular unit and with a particular technical meaning. `AstroData` hides the particulars by allowing functions that calculate the metadata to be defined in the same configuration space in which the dataset type itself is defined.

The `AstroDataType` system is able to look at any aspect of the dataset to judge if it belongs in a given classification, but the intent is to find characteristics in the MEF’s PHU. Using this knowledge, `AstroData` loads and applies particular instrument-mode-specific methods to obtain general behavior through a uniform interface, as desired for the developer.

This uniform interface can be presented not only in the case of meta-data but also in the case of transformations and any other dataset-type-specific behavior.

## 5.2 AstroData Types

To first order, Astrodata Types map to instrument-modes, and these provide a good concrete image of what Astrodata Type are. However more abstract types of dataset identification are also possible and make themselves useful, such as generic types such as “IFU” vs “IMAGE”, or processing status types such as “RAW” vs “PREPARED”.

### 5.2.1 Recipes and Primitives

The Astrodata package’s “Recipe System” handles all abstractions involved in transforming a dataset and is built on top of the AstroData dataset abstraction. The system is called the *Recipe System* because the top level instructions for transforming data are “recipes”, text files of sequential instructions to perform. For example the recipe `makeProcessedBias` contains the following:

```
.. code-block:: python
```

**linenos**

```
prepare    addDQ    addVAR(read_noise=True)    overscanCorrect    addToList(purpose="forStack")
getList(purpose="forStack") stackFrames storeProcessedBias
```

Each of these instructions is either a “primitive”, which is a python function implemented in the configuration space for a dataset of the given classification, or another recipe. Note that the “storeProcessedBias” primitive above takes an argument in this example, “clob(ber)” equals “True”, which tells the storage primitive to overwrite (clobber) any pre-existing bias of the same name.

### Zero Recipe System Overhead for AstroData-only Users

Use of AstroData does NOT lead to importing any part of the “Recipe System”. Thus there is no overhead borne by users of the AstroData dataset abstraction if they do not specifically invoke the Recipe System. Neither the configuration package nor even the related astrodata package modules are imported until the Recipe System is explicitly invoked by the calling program.

### 5.2.2 The Astrodata Lexicon and Configurations

An Astrodata Configuration package, defining types, metadata, and transformations, relies on a configuration which defines a lexicon of elements which are implemented in the configuration package in a way such that Astrodata can load and apply the functionality involved. Put simply a combination of location and naming conventions allows the configuration author to define elements in a way that astrodata will discover. In the current system there are three types of elements to be concerned with:

- dataset classification names, **Astrodata Types**
- high level metadata names, **Astrodata Descriptors**
- scientifically meaningful discrete dataset transformation names, **Primitives**

Each of these have associated actions:

- **Astrodata Type**: checks a dataset for adherence to AstroData type classification criteria, generally by checking key-value pairs in the PHU.

- **Astrodata Descriptors:** calculate and return a named piece of high-level metadata for a particular Astrodata Type in particular units.
- **Primitives:** performs a transformation on a dataset of a particular Astrodata Type.

The `astrodata_Gemini` package contains these definitions for Gemini datasets separated into two parts, one for the basic AstroData related configuration information, and another for Recipe System configuration. The first section, in its own subdirectory in the configuration package directory. In Gemini's case is found in the `ADCONFIG_Gemini` configuration subdirectory. Configurations in this subdirectory define types, descriptor functions, and other AstroData-related features. The second section, in a sibling subdirectory in the configuration package, in Gemini's case, `RECIPES_Gemini`. There are defined configurations and implementations needed by the Recipe System, such as recipes and primitives.

## 5.3 Astrodata Type

An Astrodata Type is a named set of dataset characteristics.

The lack of a central system for type detection in our legacy package meant that scripts and tasks made extended checks on the header data in the datasets they manipulate. Often these checks only verify that the right type of data is being worked on, a very common task, yet these checks can still be somewhat complex and brittle, for example relying on specific headers which may change when an instrument is upgraded.

The Astrodata classification system on the other hand allows the defining of dataset classifications via configuration packaging such that the type definitions are shared throughout the system. The calling code can refer to type information by a string name for the type, and any subtleties in or changes to the means of detection are centralized, providing some forward and backward compatibility. The system also allows programmers to check dataset types with a single line of code:

```
1  from astrodata.AstroData import AstroData
2
3  ad = AstroData("N20091027S0134.fits")
4
5  if ad.isType("GMOS_IMAGE"):
6      gmos_specific_function(ad)
7
8  if ad.isType("RAW") == False:
9      print "Dataset is not RAW data, already processed."
10 else:
11     handle_raw_dataset(ad)
```

The `isType(...)` function on lines 5 and 8 above is an example of one-line type checking. The one-line check replaces a larger set of PHU header checks which would otherwise have to be used. Users benefit in a forward-compatible way from any future improvements to the named type, such as better checks or incorporation of new instruments and modes, and also gain additional sophistication such as type-hierarchy relationships which are simply not present with the legacy approach.

The most general of benefits to a clean type system is the ability to assign type-specific behaviors and still provide the using programmer with a consistent interface to the type of functionality involved.

## 5.4 Astrodata Descriptors

A descriptor is named metadata.

Significant amounts of information about the data is present along with the pixel data and much of it is important to data analysis processes. The MEF file structure supports such meta-data in the Primary Header Unit and the header section of the extensions.

The problem retrieving metadata consistently is that while the values of interest are stored in some form in the headers, the header key names do not follow consistent conventions across instruments. It's easy to assume that there is a one to one relationship between particular metadata headers of different instrument-modes and that the discrepancy is that the developers have merely chosen different header key names. If that were the entire problem a table oriented approach could be used and one could look up the proper header key name for a particular named piece of metadata based on the type of dataset. This particular key would be used to look up the information in the headers.

However, this table-driven approach is not workable because the situation turns out to be more complex. Firstly, the units of the given header value may be different for different instruments and modes. A table could be expanded to have columns for the value's storage and return type, but expanding the table in this way would also still not be sufficient for the general case.

The decisive complications that preclude a simple table look-up approach are two, and lead us to a function-based approach. One, the information needed to provide the named metadata is sometimes distributed across multiple key/header values. These require combination or computation, and for different instruments and modes the distribution and combination required differ. Two, a correct calculation of the metadata sometimes requires use of look-up tables that must be loaded from a configuration space with instrument-specific information, based on the dataset's Astrodata Type.

For metadata which complies with the more simple expectations, widely shared descriptors for some metadata are standard functions able to lookup the meta-data based on standard names or using simple rules that generalize whatever variation there is in the storage of that particular meta-data across different instruments. While it is possible for a descriptor to store its calculated value in the header of the dataset, and return that if called again, essentially caching the value in the header, Gemini descriptors choose as a matter of policy to always recalculate, and leave such caching schemes to the calling program.

A complete descriptor definition includes the proper unit for the descriptor and a conceptual description. E.g. Any CCD based data will have an associated "gain", relating to the electronics used to take the image. Given an AstroData instance, `ad`, to get the "gain" for any supported Astrodata Type, you would use the following source code regardless of the instrument-mode of the dataset:

```
1 gain = ad.gain()
```

Because the proper descriptors are assigned to the correct Astrodata Types for Gemini Instruments, the line above will take into account any type-specific peculiarities that exist for the supported dataset. The current `ADCONFIG_Gemini` configuration implementation has descriptors present for all Gemini instruments.

## 5.5 Recipe System Primitives

A primitive is a transformation.

A primitive is an specific dataset transformation for which we will want to assign concrete implementations for the Astrodata Type. For example, `subtractSky` is a transformation that has meaning for a variety of wavelength regimes which involve subtracting sky frames from the science pixels. Different instruments in different modes will require different implementations for this transformation, due both to differences in the data type and data layout produced by a particular instrument-mode, and also due to different common reduction practices in different wavelength regimes.

Recipe and primitive names both play a role bridging the gap between what the computer does and what the science user expects to be done. The primitives are meant to be human-recognizable steps such as come up in a discussion among science users about data flow procedures. The recipes are, loosely, the names of data processing work. This puts a constraint on how functionally fine grained primitives should become. For example at Gemini we have assumed the concept of primitives as "scientifically meaningful" steps means the data should never be in an incoherent or invalid

state, scientifically, after a given step. Each step is at least a mini-milestone in a reduction process. So, for example, no primitive should require another primitive to be run subsequent in order to complete its own transformation, and primitives should always output valid, coherent datasets. For example, there should not be a primitive that modifies pixel data which is followed by a primitive which modifies the header to reflect the change, and instead both steps should be within such a primitive so the data is never reported to the system in an invalid or misleading state.

Recipes can also call other recipes. This allows refactoring between recipes and primitives as the set of transformation evolves. A recipe called by a higher level recipe is seen as an atomic step at the level of the calling recipe. Coherent steps which can be broken down into smaller coherent steps are thus probably best addressed with a recipe calling a recipe. This feature helps recipes to work for more types. In the end though, primitives have to be executed so that actual python can run and manipulate the dataset. Below a certain level of granularity primitives become inappropriate. Such code, insofar as it is reusable and/or needs to be encapsulated, is written as functions in utility libraries, such as the Gemini `gempy` package.

Formalizing the transformation concept allows us to refactor our data reduction approaches for unforeseen complications, new information, new instruments, and so on, without having to necessarily change recipes that call these transformations, or the named transformations which the recipes themselves represent. Recipes for specific nodes in the Astrodata Type tree can also be assigned as needed, and the fact that recipes and primitives can be used by name interchangeably ensures that transformations can be refactored and solved with different levels of recipes and primitives. This flexibility helps us expand and improve the available transformations while still providing a stable interface to the user.

AstroData is intended to be useful for general Python scripting, that is, one does not have to write code in the form of primitives to use Astrodata. Also, the Recipe System is not automatically imported (i.e. as a result of “import astrodata”) so that no overhead is borne by the AstroData user not making use of automation features. A script using AstroData benefits from the type, descriptor, validation, and other built in data handling features of AstroData. However, such scripts do not lend themselves to use in a well-controlled automated system, and thus the Recipe System is provided for when there is need for such a system in which to execute the transformation, as with the Gemini Pipeline projects. Unconstrained python scripts lack a consistent control and parameter interface.

When writing primitives all inputs are provided through the Reduction Context, and depending on the control system these may come from the unix command line, the pyraf command line, from a pipeline control system or other software, or by the calling recipes and primitives. Primitive functions are written as Python generators, allowing the control system to perform some tasks for the primitive, such as history keeping and logging, keeping lists of stackable images, retrieving appropriate calibrations, and reporting image statistics to a central database, etc., when the primitive “yields”.

The automation system is designed to support a range of automation, from a “dataset by dataset, fully automated” mode for pipeline processing of data as it comes in from the telescope, through to “interactive automation” where the user decides at what level to initiate automation and where to intervene.

For advanced users it may be of interest that strictly speaking primitives transform the `ReductionContext` object and not only the input datasets. This context contains references to all objects and datasets which are part of the reduction, including the input dataset. While nearly all primitives will access their input datasets and most will modify the datasets and report them as outputs to the reduction context, some primitives may calculate statistics and report these to the reduction context without reporting pixel data outputs. In this case the stream inputs will be propagated as inputs to the subsequent primitive. It is the Reduction Context as a whole that is passed into the primitives as the standard and sole argument (besides self) for the primitive. The reduction context must be left in a coherent state upon exit from a primitive.

Below is a prototype recipe in use in our development environment for testing. It performs some initial processing on RAW data.

```
1 prepare
2 overscanSub
3 overscanTrim
4 biasSub
5 flatField
```

6 `findshiftsAndCombine`

If that recipe is generic, this means, given that primitive sets for GMOS\_IMAGE, NIRI\_IMAGE, etc, implement the named primitives in the recipe, then when the recipe system executes a line such as `biasSub`, it will execute the “`biasSub`” member of the appropriate PrimitiveSet associate with that type. Thus, if `prepare` can be implemented for both types, while `biassub` requires GMOS and NIRI- specific implementations, then “`prepare`” can be implemented as a shared recipe or in the GEMINI primitive set, while those that require special implementation are implemented in the appropriate GMOS or NIRI primitive sets within the correct part of the configuration.

### 5.5.1 Some Benefits of the Primitive Concept

The use of primitives instead of scripts for reduction processes has a side benefit besides enjoying automation features supplied by the Recipe System. This benefit is due to the fact that the concept of the primitive as a named transformation is bound to the spoken language that Instrument Scientists, astronomers, data analysts and the data software group at Gemini use to discuss data flow procedures. This crossover between terms in our formal system and in our less formal spoken language has promoted consistency between the two. For example, when breaking reductions down into discrete chunks which can be implemented and shared when possible the process helps us understand what truly differentiates implementations of the same named transformation. Sharing of code not only saves developers the effort of reimplementing, but more importantly it promotes consistency and provides locations in the system where wide ranging changes in policy can be implemented, accommodating the inevitable evolution of reduction software.

In short, discussing how to break down typical reduction procedures into recipes made of reusable primitives has had the effect of clarifying our understanding of these procedures. Sometimes the responsibilities of tasks in our legacy system had clear boundaries, such as for `gemarith`, but for other tasks, such as the “`prepare`” task in each instrument’s package, the boundaries of responsibility were less clear. Adapting transformation concepts which are already in our spoken lexicon to a more structured software environment represented with concrete implementations, guides us to creating a clearer definition for `prepare`. Flexibility in the system allows satisfaction of any special needs while developing truly shared transformation concepts.

#### Natural Emergence of Reusable Primitives

Reusable code naturally emerges from the process above because the work of isolating the steps in a data handling process naturally reveals similar or identical steps present in other processes, which can then easily be implemented at a shared level. In practice, even if creating a recipe that is over-all very instrument and mode-specific, there seem to emerge general purpose steps which can be of benefit in a toolkit of primitives. New project-specific tasks will be able to select from and reuse them freely.

Authors of primitives have several options based on the needs of the project at hand:

1. generalize the previous attempt at a general solution to leverage the work already done
2. write a new generalization
3. write a version which is primarily designed to be useful as a primitive in the project’s use case

The design of the recipes and primitives of the Recipe System is intended to facilitate negotiating these options in an environment with fall-backs and which does not cement you into a particular layout of your transformations.

#### Test Case at Gemini Observatory: Refactoring Python Scripts into Recipes and Primitives

We (GDPSG and DA teams) have performed the exercise of breaking down a set of pre-existing scripts into recipes and primitives in the case of some instrument monitoring scripts which are set up on a cron job. Separate from the issue of the quality of the code being thus preserved, the procedure for refactoring into the recipe/primitive form turned out relatively easy and to involve the following:

1. Finding where (potential) milestone states of the data occur in the script being refactored. These are places where the dataset and headers are coherent, and any information the reduction context should be informed of has been prepared and is available. Note, some potential milestone states, when considered too fine grained will be bundled together as a single transformation.
2. Naming the source code between each of these milestone states, and identifying its input, output, and specific responsibilities.
3. Cutting and pasting (or re-entering) source from the script into a primitive set class, adding adapter code which fetches or stores information in the reduction context to and from variables the script uses in its legacy form. The code can be largely left as-is since primitives are simply python code, so long as input/output is adapted to the reduction context.
4. Writing a recipe is using the steps created above.

Regarding the quality of the code thus being preserved, while it was minimal upon analysis, as is often the case it had the advantage of being deployed and functional. It is the intent of the Recipe system to allow rapid adaptation of code into the system, as well as to enable more intimately and well behaved transformations to be integrated, and for there to be iterative refactoring paths from the former to the latter.

The primitives in the test case were developed into a separate recipe package (not in `astrodata_Gemini/RECIPES_Gemini`) which is added to the Astrodata package's `RECIPATH` environment variable.

Even with lack of a formal structure to the refactoring, and the devil-you-know approach to preserving the functioning of the code, the process of adaptation to the recipe/primitive structure provides some natural order and formalism in the process of identifying the *de facto* transformations in the script. Improvement is incremental. But even in this case, at the very least, the above analysis will lead to a sequential list of the steps in the script. That alone is a good starting point for making a complete replacement if that is necessary. Subsequent work on the recipes and component primitives only improves the exposure of the work, the consciousness of the ordering of operations, and merging of common functionality into common code.

In the case of our instrument monitoring example the result of the refactoring to the Recipe System is functional and in use. The resulting recipes made use of some primitives from the Gemini library of primitives, and could benefit from more refactoring allowing both some primitives from the main package to be used (i.e. the scripts performed, and primitives were adapted around a custom “prepare” step on GMOS data), and also to allow several of the primitives created to be made more robust and moved into the main package.

## 5.5.2 Recipes calling Recipes

Recipes can call other recipes. Primitives, also, can call recipes or other primitives. During execution, the Astrodata Recipe System makes little distinction between recipes and primitives and from the view of those invoking recipes and primitives, recipe and primitive names are interchangeable. For example, a user executing recipes through the reduce command line program can just as easily give a primitive name to the “reduce” command as a “recipe” name, and reduce will execute the primitive correctly. Still the general picture we tend to speak of is one in which we have a top level recipe for standard processes such as making a processed bias, which list the steps that the data must go through to complete the processing named by the recipe.

It is a judgment call how fine grained the steps in a recipe should be, and this in principle drives how fine grained primitives should be. However, what is appropriate to view in a recipe of a certain name and scope may not be the same granularity level which is appropriate for specialists in the data regime being processed, as the recipe will in general be associated with some general purpose concepts, and should have meaning for someone with general purpose knowledge. Sometimes if the top level recipe were to name every step which an Instrument Analyst or Data Processing Developer found distinct and “scientifically meaningful” this would lead to a too finely grained list of steps, which would obscure the big picture of how the transformation named is executed.

In this case, which is common, then the more finely grained steps should be bundled together into recipes which then are used as single statements in higher level recipes. The ability for recipes to call recipes ensures steps can be named



whatever is semantically appropriate for whatever the scope of the transformation named might be. At one extreme the recipe system can support a processing paradigm in pipelines which invokes reduction with the most general instructions, “do the appropriate thing for the next file”, and at the other extreme it allows users to decide what to treat as atomic processes and when to intervene.

The fact that primitives (should) always leave datasets at some milestone of processing provides some security for the user that they will not perform an operation that puts the dataset in an incoherent state. Breaking down recipes into sub-recipes and so on into primitives truncates at the lowest level when we have primitives that, however focused, modify the data (or reduction context) in some significant way and leave the dataset at some milestone of reduction, however minor a “milestone” it may be. It’s also possible, especially if a primitive is adapted from a script, that a primitive will be monolithic, and cannot be broken down into a recipe until more finely grained primitives are created. The interchangeability of recipes and primitive names is meant to encourage such refactoring, as any reusable set of primitives is considered more useful than a monolithic primitive performing all the functions of the reusable set at once.

## 5.6 AstroData Lexicon

A lexicon is a list of words, and this is what the designer of an Astrodata configuration creates. The set of terms adhere to a grammar (types of elements that can be defined) and establishes a vocabulary about dataset types, metadata, and transformations. Firstly, the configurations define string type names, and criteria by which they can be identified as a given type of dataset. Then they construct names for and describe metadata one expects to be associated with these datasets. Finally they create names for and describe transformations that can be performed on datasets.

Datasets of particular Astrodata Types can thus be recognized by astrodata and the other type-specific behaviors can be assigned. For example, the “astrodata\_Gemini” package is the public configuration package defining data taken by Gemini instruments. Descriptors for all instruments have been created, and early implementations of primitives for GMOS IMAGE and GMOS are available (and under continued development).

For complete documentation of the ADCONFIG\_Gemini type and descriptor package see “Gemini AstroData Type Reference”, available at <http://gdpsg.wikis-internal.gemini.edu/index.php?title=UserDocumentation>.

The `astrodata` package itself has no built-in type or descriptor definitions. It contains only the infrastructure to load such definitions from an `astrodata` configuration package directory (the path of which must appear in the `PYTHONPATH`, `RECIPEPATH`, or `ADCONFIGPATH` environment variables as a directory complying with the “`astrodata_xxx`” naming convention, and containing at least one of either `ADCONFIG_<whatever>` or `RECIPES_<whatever>` sub-packages).

Here is an part of the Gemini type hierarchy, the GMOS\_IMAGE branch of the GMOS types:

![GMOS AstroData Type Tree](http://ophiuchus.hi.gemini.edu/ADTYPETREEIMAGES/GMOS_IMAGE-tree- pd.png)

This diagram shows GMOS\_IMAGE is a child type of the GMOS type, which in turn is a child of the GEMINI type. The children of GMOS\_IMAGE are other types which share some or all common primitives or other properties with GMOS\_IMAGE, but which may in some cases require special handling. The diagram shows descriptor calculator and primitive set assignments. A descriptor calculator (a set of descriptor functions) is assigned to GMOS, from which GMOS\_IMAGE and GMOS\_SPECT inherit the same descriptors as there is nothing more specific assigned.

The graph also shows primitive sets assigned to GEMINI, GMOS, and GMOS\_IMAGE. Since a primitive set specific to GMOS\_IMAGE is present in the configuration, it would be used for transformations applying to GMOS\_IMAGE datasets rather than the GMOS or GEMINI primitives. However the primitive set class for GMOS\_IMAGE happens to be defined in `astrodata_Gemini` as a child class of the GMOS primitive set, and the GMOS primitive set as the child of the GEMINI primitive set, so in fact, the members can be shared unless intentionally overridden.

Primitives associated with the GEMINI Astrodata Type are generally just bookkeeping functions which rely on features of the Recipe System as few pixel transformations can be entirely generalized across all Gemini datasets, though some can.



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