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April 6, 2025

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https://github.com/fmarotta/kaobook

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Publisher

First printed in May 2019 by



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Part I

A FLEXIBLE PYTHON TOOL FOR FOURIER-TRANSFORM NOISE SPECTROSCOPY

The python_spectrometer software package

3

In this chapter, I will lay out the design and functionality of the $python_{-1}$ spectrometer Python package.¹

3.1 Package design and implementation

The python_spectrometer package provides a central class, Spectrometer, that users interact with to perform data acquisition, spectrum estimation, and plotting. It is instantiated with an instance of a child class of the DAQ base class that implements an interface to various data acquisition device (DAQ) hardware devices. New spectra are obtained by calling the Spectrometer.take() method with all acquisition and metadata settings.

In the following, I will go over the the design of these aspects of the package in more detail.

3.1.1 Data acquisition

The daq module contains on the one hand the declaration of the DAQ abstract base class and its child class implementations, and on the other the settings module, which defines the DAQSettings class. This class is used in the background to validate data acquisition settings both for consistency (c.f. Subsection 2.3.1) and hardware constraints.

To better understand the necessity of this functionality, consider the typical scenario of a physicist² in the lab. Alice has wired up her experiment, performed a first measurement, and to her dismay discovered that the data is too noisy to see the sought-after effect. She sets up the python_1 spectrometer code to investigate the noise spectrum of her measurement setup. From her noisy data she could already estimate the frequency of the most harrowing noise, so she knows the frequency band $[f_{\min}, f_{\max}]$ she is most interested in. But because she is lazy, she does not want to do the mental gymnastics to convert f_{\min} to the parameter that her DAQ device understands, L (see Table 3.1), especially considering that L depends on the number of Welch averages and the overlap. Furthermore, while she could just about do the conversion from $f_{\rm max}$ to the other relevant DAQ parameter, f_s , in her head, her device imposes hardware constraints on the allowed sample rates she can select! The DAQSettings class addresses these issues. It is instantiated with any subset of the parameters listed in Table 3.14 and attempts to resolve the parameter interdependencies lined out in Subsection 2.3.1 upon calling DAQSettings.to_consistent_1 dict().⁵ This either infers those parameters that were not given from those that were or, if not possible, uses a default value. Child classes of the DAQ class can subclass DAQSettings to implement hardware constraints such as a finite set of allowed sampling rates or a maximum number of samples per data buffer.

For instance, Alice might want to measure the noise spectrum in the frequency band [1.5 Hz, 72 kHz]. Although she would not have to do this explicitly,⁶ she could inspect the parameters after resolution using the code shown in Listing 3.1.

1: The package repository is hosted on GitLab. Its documentation is automatically generated and hosted on GitLab as well. Releases are automatically published to PyPI and allow the package to be installed using pip install python-spectrometer.

Table 3.1: Variable names used in Chapter 2 and their corresponding parameter names as used in python_spectrometer and scipy.signal.welch() [1].

Variable	Parameter
L	n_pts
$f_{ m s}$	fs
K	noverlap
N	nperseg
M	n_seg
$f_{ m min}$	f_min
$f_{ m max}$	f_max

- 2: Let's call her Alice.
- 3: Physicists generally are.

- 4: DAQSettings inherits from the builtin dict and as such can contain arbitrary other keys besides those listed in Table 3.1. However, automatic validation of parameter consistency is only performed for these special keys.
- 5: Since the graph spanned by the parameters is not acyclic, this only works *most* of the time.
- 6: Settings are automatically parsed when passed to the take() method of the Spectrometer class.

Listing 3.1: DAQSettings example show-casing automatic parameter resolution. n_avg determines the number of outer averages, *i. e.*, the number of data buffers acquired and processed individually.

```
>>> from python_spectrometer.daq import DAQSettings

>>> settings = DAQSettings(f_min=1.5, f_max=7.2e4)

>>> settings.to_consistent_dict()

{'f_min': 1.5,

'f_max': 72000.0,

'fs': 144000.0,

'df': 1.5,

'nperseg': 96000,

'noverlap': 48000,

'n_seg': 5,

'n_pts': 288000,

'n_avg': 1}
```

```
{'f_min': 14.30511474609375,
  'f_max': 72000.0,
  'fs': 234375.0,
  'df': 14.30511474609375,
  'nperseg': 16384,
  'noverlap': 0,
  'n_seg': 1,
  'n_pts': 16384,
  'n_avg': 1}
```

Listing 3.2: Resolved settings for the same input parameters as in Listing 3.1 but for the ZurichInstrumentsMFLIScope backend with hardware constraints on n_pts and fs.

[2]: (n.d.), Scope Module - LabOne API User Manual

- 7: And issued a warning to inform the user their requested settings could not be matched.
- 8: Which might differ from the requested settings as outlined above.

DAQ pseudocode?

Introduce Bob?

3.1.2 Data processing

Once time series data has been acquired using a given DAQ backend, it could in principle immediately be used to estimate the PSD following Equation 2.16. However, it is often desirable to transform, or process, the data in some fashion. This can include simple transformations such as

```
A SomeDAQ object (representing the instrument Some) is instantiated with a driver object (for instance a QCoDeS Instrument). The instrument is configured with the given user_settings. Calling the generator function daq. | acquire() with the actual device settings returns a generator, iterating over
```

tings returns a generator, iterating over which yields one data buffer per iteration. The data buffers can then be passed to further processing functions (the power spectral density (PSD) estimator in our example).

Listing 3.3: DAQ workflow pseudocode.

If the instrument she'd chosen for data acquisition had been a Zurich Instruments MFLI's "Scope" module [2], the same requested settings would have resolved to those shown in Listing 3.2.⁷ This is because the Scope module constrains $L \in [2^{12}, 2^{14}]$ and $f_s \in 60 \, \mathrm{MHz} \times 2^{[-16,0]} \approx \{915.5 \, \mathrm{Hz}, \dots, 30 \, \mathrm{MHz}, 60 \, \mathrm{MHz}\}$.

As already mentioned, the DAQ base class implements a common interface for different hardware backends, allowing the Spectrometer class to be hardware agnostic. That is, changing the instrument that is used to acquire the data does not necessitate adapting the code used to interact with the instrument. To enable this, different instruments require small wrapper drivers that map the functionality of their actual driver onto the interface dictated by the DAQ class. This is achieved by subclassing DAQ and implementing the DAQ.setup() and DAQ.acquire() methods. Their functionality is best illustrated by the internal workflow. When acquiring a new spectrum, all settings supplied by the user are first fed into the setup() method where instrument configuration takes place. The method returns the actual device settings,⁸ which are then forwarded to the acquire() generator function. Here, the instrument is armed (if necessary), and subsequently data is fetched from the device and yielded to the caller n_avg times, where n_avg is the number of outer averages. Listing 3.3 represents the data acquisition workflow as pseudocode.

```
daq = SomeDAQ(driver)
parsed_settings = daq.setup(**user_settings)
acquisition_generator = daq.acquire(**parsed_settings)
for data_buffer in acquisition_generator:
    do_something_with(data_buffer)
```

accounting for the gain of a transimpedance amplifier (TIA) and convert the voltage back to a current, or more complex ones such as applying calibrations. In particular, since the process of computing the PSD already involves Fourier transformation, the processing can also be performed in frequency space.

In python_spectrometer, this can be done using a procfn (in the time domain) or fourier_procfn (in the Fourier domain). The former is specified as an argument directly to the Spectrometer constructor. It is a callable with signature (x, **kwargs) -> xp, that is, takes the time series data as its first (positional) argument and arbitrary settings that are passed through from the take() method as keyword arguments, and returns the processed data. Listing 3.4 shows a simple function that accounts for the gain of an amplifier.

The latter is specified in the psd_estimator argument of the Spectrometer constructor. This argument allows the user to specify a custom estimator for the PSD, in which case a callable is expected. Otherwise, it should be a mapping containing parameters for the default PSD estimator, scipy. signal.welch() [1]. Here, the keyword fourier_procfn should be a callable with signature (xf, f, **kwargs) -> (xfp, fp). That is, it should take the frequency-space data, the corresponding frequencies, and arbitrary keyword arguments and return a tuple of the processed data and the corresponding frequencies. The latter are required in case the function modifies the frequencies. 11 A simple example for a processing function in Fourier space is shown in Listing 3.5, which computes the (anti-)derivative of the data using the fact that

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \xrightarrow{\text{F.T.}} (i\omega)^n \tag{3.1}$$

under the Fourier transform. In Part II, I discuss more complex use-cases of the processing functionality included in python_spectrometer in the context of vibration spectroscopy.

3.2 Feature overview

3.2.1 Sequential spectrum acquisition

Now that we have a basic understanding of the design choices underlying python_spectrometer, let us discuss the typical workflow of using the package. The default mode for spectrum acquisition using python__ spectrometer revolves around the take() method. Key to this workflow is the idea that each acquired spectrum can be assigned a comment that allows to easily identify a spectrum in the main plot. For instance, this comment could contain information about the particular settings that were active when the spectrum was recorded, or where a particular cable was placed.

Consider as an example the procedure of "noise hunting", *i.e.*, debugging a noisy experimental setup. The experimentalist, 12 having discovered that his data is noisier than expected, sets up the Spectrometer class with an instance of the DAQ subclass for the DAQ instrument connected to his sample. Choosing the frequency bounds, say $f_{\rm min}=10\,{\rm Hz}$ and $f_{\rm max}=100\,{\rm kHz}$, and using the sensible defaults for the remaining spectrum parameters, Charlie first grounds the input of his DAQ to record a

9: Although it is of course less than trivial to discriminate between current and voltage noise in a TIA.

```
def compensate_gain(x, gain=1.0):
    return x / gain
```

Listing 3.4: A simple proofn, which converts amplified data back to the level before amplification.

```
def derivative(xf, f, n=0):
    return xf / (2j * pi * f)**n
```

Listing 3.5: A simple fourier_procfn, which calculates the (anti-)derivative.

[1]: (n.d.), Welch — SciPy v1.15.2 Manual 10: *I.e.*, the psd_estimator argument would be {"fourier_procfn": fn}.

11: One example is the octave_j
band_rms() function from the qutil.
signal_processing module [3]

ref

überleitung

12: Let's call him Charlie.

Listing 3.6: Setup and workflow using the python_spectrometer package. session and device are Application Programming Interface (API) objects of the zhinst.toolkit driver package. It is therefore possible to simply use the driver objects that are already in use in the measurement setup.

```
from python_spectrometer import Spectrometer, daq

mfli_daq = daq.ZurichInstrumentsMFLIDAQ(session, device)
spect = Spectrometer(mfli_daq)
spect.take('baseline', f_min=1e1, f_max=1e5)
```

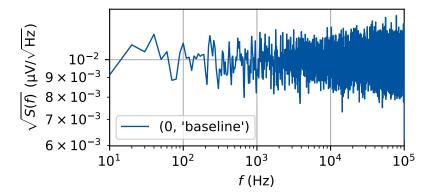


Figure 3.1: The python_spectrometer plot after acquiring the baseline spectrum. By default, the amplitude spectral density (ASD) = √PSD is displayed in the main plot.

baseline spectrum. Thus far, his code would hence look something like that shown in Listing 3.6

Having obtained a baseline for subsequent experiments, he starts to tweak things on his setup, test out different parameters, *etc.* Every time he changes something, he acquires another spectrum using take()

Part II

CHARACTERIZATION AND IMPROVEMENTS OF A MILLIKELVIN CONFOCAL MICROSCOPE

Part III

ELECTROSTATIC TRAPPING OF EXCITONS IN SEMICONDUCTOR MEMBRANES

Part IV

A FILTER-FUNCTION FORMALISM FOR QUANTUM OPERATIONS



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Special Terms

A API Application Programming Interface. 14 ASD amplitude spectral density. 14
D DAQ data acquisition device. 11–13
P PSD power spectral density. 12–14
T TIA transimpedance amplifier, 13