ecRad radiation scheme: User Guide (draft) Robin J. Hogan European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts, Reading, UK

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 What is ecRad?

ecRad is an atmospheric radiation scheme designed for computing profiles of solar (or shortwave) and thermal infrared (or longwave) irradiances from the surface up to the middle mesosphere. It is incorporated into the Integrated Forecasting System (IFS), the weather forecast model used operationally by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), in which it is used to compute radiative heating and cooling rates of the atmosphere and surface. An offline version of the scheme is available for educational and non-commercial research uses only.

A scientific overview of *ecRad* was provided by Hogan and Bozzo (2018). It incorporates the Rapid Radiative Transfer Model for GCMs (RRTMG; Iacono et al., 2008) for representing absorption by atmospheric gases and a flexible treatment of the optical properties of aerosol particles. Three different solvers capable of representing the effects of subgrid cloud structure: McICA (Pincus et al., 2003), Tripleclouds (Shonk and Hogan, 2008) and SPARTACUS (Hogan et al., 2016). It is coded in Fortran 2003 in a way that is efficient and flexible.

1.2 License

The Meteorological Services of ECMWF Member States are permitted to use *ecRad* (along with any IFS software) for any in-house purpose. Other researchers may apply for an institutional license to use the software, as described on the *ecRad* web site*. The license is the same as for the OpenIFS software and permits educational and non-commercial research use only, and prohibits redistribution. The full terms of the license are available on the *ecRad* web site.

1.3 Overview of this document

Chapter 2 describes how to compile and use the offline version of *ecRad*, which is essentially a Unix program that reads a configuration file and a NetCDF file containing a description of the atmospheric state, and outputs a NetCDF file containing the computed irradiance profiles.

At some future date this document will be expanded to include chapters describing the API (for incorporating *ecRad* into a larger Fortran program), the internal architecture and the detailed scientific documentation.

^{*}https://confluence.ecmwf.int/display/ECRAD

Chapter 2

Using the offline radiation scheme

2.1 Compiling the package

The offline version of *ecRad* is designed to be used on a Unix-like platform. You will need a Fortran compiler that supports the 2003 standard such as gfortran. As a prerequisite, you will need to install the NetCDF library, including the Fortran interface (packages to install on a Linux system are typically called libnetcdff-dev or libnetcdff-devel). To run some of the tests, you will also need to install the nco utilities for manipulating NetCDF Files.

First unpack the package and enter the subdirectory as follows:

```
tar xvfz ecrad-1.1.0.tar.gz cd ecrad-1.1.0
```

On a non-GNU platform you may need to untar and unzip the package using the tar and gunzip commands separately. The README file contains concise instructions on compilation and testing, while the NOTICE file outlines the license conditions. The subdirectories are as follows:

radiation The ecRad souce code for atmospheric radiation

radsurf The *ecRad* source code for surface radiation (under development)

ifsaux Source code providing a (sometimes dummy) IFS environment

ifsrrtm The IFS implementation of the RRTMG gas optics scheme

utilities Source code for useful utilities, such as reading NetCDF files

driver The source code for the offline driver program ecrad

ifs Source files from the IFS that are used to illustrate how *ecRad* can be incorporated into a large model, but note that these files are not used in the offline version

mod Where Fortran module files are written

lib Where the static libraries are written

bin Where the executable ecrad is written

data Contains configuration data files read at run-time

test Test cases including Matlab code to plot the outputs

include Automatically generated interface blocks for non-module routines

Compilation on different platforms using different compilers is facilitated by the various Makefile_include.<prof> files in the top-level directory: if you type

make

or

make PROFILE=gfortran

the code will be compiled using the gfortran compiler via the Makefile variables set in the Makefile_include.gfortran file. If everything goes to plan this should create the executable bin/ecrad and various static libraries in the lib directory. The other profiles are pgi (for the PGI compiler), ecmwf and uor (more specific configurations for the ECMWF and University of Reading computer systems). If you wish to add a new configuration for a different compiler, the cleanest way is to create a new Makefile_include.cprof> file modelled on one of the existing ones.

To compile in single precision, type

```
make PROFILE=qfortran SINGLE PRECISION=1
```

To compile with debugging options (no optimization, bounds checking and initializing real numbers with not-anumber), type

```
make PROFILE=qfortran DEBUG=1
```

Finer tuning may be achieved by specifying the optimization and debugging flags explicitly, for example

```
make PROFILE=gfortran OPTFLAGS="-01" DEBUGFLAGS="-g1 -pg"
```

Remember that if you change the compile settings you will probably want to recompile everything, in which case you first need to remove all compiled files with

make clean

2.2 Running the offline radiation scheme

To test the code, type

```
make test
```

which runs make in each of the subdirectories of the test directory. The README files in these directories provide more information on what they are doing, and some Matlab scripts are provided to visualize the outputs.

You will see in the output of the tests the command line in each invocation of ecRad, which is of the form

```
ecrad config.nam input.nc output.nc
```

where ecrad needs to be the full path to the *ecRad* executable, config.nam is a Fortran namelist file configuring the code, input.nc contains the input atmospheric profiles and output.nc contains the output irradiance (flux) profiles. The namelist file contains a radiation namelist that configures the *ecRad* scheme itself; the parameters available are described in section 2.3. The file also contains a radiation_config namelist that configures aspects of the offline package. Only the radiation namelist is used when *ecRad* is incorporated into an atmospheric model.

The input NetCDF file contains numerous floating-point variables listed in Table 2.1. The dimensions are shown in the order that they are listed by the ncdump utility, with the first dimension varying slowest in the file. Note that this is opposite to the internal Fortran ordering. Most variables are stored as a function of column and level (dimensions named col and level in Table 2.1, although the actual dimension names are ignored by ecrad). The half_level dimension corresponds to the mid-points of the levels, plus the top-of-atmosphere and surface, and so must be one more than level. The level_interface dimension excludes the top-of-atmosphere and surface so must be one less than level. The optional sw_albedo_band and lw_emiss_band dimensions allow for shortwave albedo and longwave emissivity to be specified in user-defined spectral intervals, but in the offline code these are ignored: the first element along these dimensions will be used for the entire shortwave and longwave spectrum.

Table 2.1: Main variables contained in the input NetCDF file to ecRad. Note that some variables are not required if they are not used by the particular solver selected, for example iseed is only needed if the McICA solver is specified. Also, only one of o3_mmr and o3_vmr should be provided. In addition to ozone, further gases can be specified in either mass mixing ratio (suffix _mmr) or volume mixing ratio (suffix _vmr) units, where the prefixes are co2 (carbon dioxide), n2o (nitrous oxide), co (carbon monoxide), ch4 (methane), o2 (molecular oxygen), cfc11 (CFC-11), cfc12 (CFC-12), hcfc22 (HCFC-22), cc14 (carbon tetrachloride) and no2 (nitrogen dioxide). These further trace gases may either be specified as variable (dimensioned co1, level) or constant (a scalar value in the file).

Variable	Dimensions	Description
solar_irradiance	_	Solar irradiance at Earth's orbit (W m^{-2})
skin_temperature	col	Skin temperature (K)
cos_solar_zenith_angle	col	Cosine of solar zenith angle
sw_albedo	col, sw_albedo_band	Shortwave albedo (if 1D then assumed spectrally constant)
lw_emissivity	col, lw_emiss_band	Longwave emissivity (if 1D then assumed spectrally constant)
iseed	col	Seed for McICA random-number generator (double precision)
pressure_hl	col, half_level	Pressure at half levels (Pa)
temperature_hl	col, half_level	Temperature at half levels (K)
q	col, level	Specific humidity (kg kg ⁻¹)
o3_mmr	col, level	Ozone mass mixing ratio (kg kg ⁻¹)
o3_vmr	col, level	Ozone volume mixing ratio ($m^3 \ m^{-3}$), used only if $o3$ _mmr not provided
q_liquid	col, level	Liquid cloud mass mixing ratio (kg kg ⁻¹)
q_ice	col, level	Ice cloud mass mixing ratio (kg kg ⁻¹)
re_liquid	col, level	Liquid cloud effective radius (m)
re_ice	col, level	Ice cloud effective radius (m)
overlap_param	col, level_interface	Cloud overlap parameter
fractional_std	col, level	Fractional standard deviation of cloud optical depth
inv_cloud_effective_size	col, level	Inverse of cloud effective horizontal size for SPARTACUS solver (m^{-1})
aerosol_mmr	col, aerosol_type, level	Aerosol mass mixing ratio (kg kg ⁻¹)

All the test data store input fields in order of increasing pressure, i.e. starting at the top-of-atmosphere and working down to the surface. The output data are then provided using the same convention. If input data are provided in the opposite order then this should be automatically detected and under the bonnet the order is reversed before being passed to the radiation scheme. But if you use this convention then please test the results carefully as this option is not regularly tested.

The output NetCDF file contains the typical set of variables listed in Table 2.2. Clear-sky fluxes (i.e. computed on the same input profiles but in the absence of clouds) are provided if the do_clear namelist parameter is set to true (see section 2.3) while surface spectral shortwave surface fluxes are provided if do_surface_sw_spectral_flux is set to true. Note that if you want atmospheric heating rates then you will need to compute them yourself from the flux profiles.

Table 2.2: Variables contained in the output NetCDF file from ecRad, where all fluxes (or irradiances) have units of W m⁻². The band_sw dimension has the same size as the number of shortwave bands in the gas-optics scheme.

Variable	Dimensions	Description
pressure_hl	col, half_level	Pressure at half levels (Pa)
flux_up_sw, flux_dn_sw	col, half_level	Up- and downwelling shortwave fluxes
flux_up_sw_clear, flux_dn_sw_clear	col, half_level	Up- and downwelling clear-sky shortwave fluxes
flux_dn_direct_sw	col, half_level	Direct component of downwelling shortwave flux
flux_dn_direct_sw_clear	col, half_level	Direct component of downwelling clear-sky shortwave
		flux
flux_up_lw, flux_dn_lw	col, half_level	Up- and down-welling longwave fluxes
flux_up_lw_clear, flux_dn_lw_clear	col, half_level	Up- and down-welling clear-sky longwave fluxes

lw_derivative	col, half_leve	Derivative of upwelling longwave flux with respect to surface value (Hogan and Bozzo, 2015)
spectral_flux_dn_sw_surf	col, band_sw	Downwelling surface shortwave flux in each band
spectral_flux_dn_direct_sw_surf	col, band_sw	Direct downwelling surface shortwave flux in each band
spectral_flux_dn_sw_surf_clear	col, band_sw	Clear-sky downwelling surface shortwave flux in each
		band
spectral_flux_dn_direct_sw_surf_clear	col, band_sw	Clear-sky direct downwelling surface shortwave flux in each band
cloud_cover_sw	col	Total cloud cover diagnosed by shortwave solver
cloud_cover_lw	col	Total cloud cover diagnosed by longwave solver

2.3 Configuring the radiation scheme

The detailed settings of *ecRad* are configured using the radiation namelist in the namelist file provided as the first command-line argument to the ecrad executable. The available namelist parameters are listed in Table 2.3. One of the most important is directory_name, which provides the absolute or relative path to the directory containing all the configuration files. This is the data directory at the top level of the *ecRad* package. Note that the default values listed in Table 2.3 may differ in some cases from the values used operationally in the IFS (see Table 2 of Hogan and Bozzo, 2018).

Table 2.3: Options for the radiation namelist that configures the radiation scheme. The type of each parameter can be inferred from its name: logicals begin with do_ or use_, integers start with i_ or n_, strings end with _name, and all other parameters are real numbers.

Parameter	Default value, other values	Description
General		
directory_name	•	Directory containing NetCDF configuration files
do_sw	true	Compute shortwave fluxes?
do_lw	true	Compute longwave fluxes?
do_sw_direct	true	Do direct shortwave fluxes?
do_clear	true	Compute clear-sky fluxes?
Gas and aerosol optics		
gas_model_name	RRTMG-IFS,	Gas optics model
	Monochromatic	
use_aerosols	false	Do we represent aerosols?
do_lw_aerosol_scattering	true	Do longwave aerosol scattering?
n_aerosol_types		Number of aerosol types
i_aerosol_type_map		Vector of integers that map from aerosol types to
		types in the NetCDF aerosol optics file, where
		positive integers indexe hydrophobic types,
		negative integers index hydrophilic types and zero
		indicates a type should be ignored
Monochromatic scheme		
mono_lw_wavelength	-1.0	Wavelength of longwave radiation, or if negative, a
		broadband calculation will be performed
mono_lw_total_od	0.0	Zenith longwave optical depth of clear-sky
		atmosphere
mono_sw_total_od	0.0	Zenith shortwave optical depth of clear-sky
		atmosphere
Cloud optics		
liquid_model_name	SOCRATES, Slingo,	Liquid optics model, including the scheme in the
	Monochromatic	SOCRATES radiation scheme and the older
		scheme of Slingo (1989)
ice_model_name	Fu-IFS, Baran2016, Yi,	Ice optics model, including the schemes of Fu
	Monochromatic	(1996), Fu et al. (1998), Baran et al. (2016) and
		Yi et al. (2013)
do_lw_cloud_scattering	true	Do longwave cloud scattering?
do_fu_lw_ice_optics_bug	false	Reproduce bug in McRad implementation of Fu ice optics?

Solver		
sw_solver_name	Homogeneous, McICA,	Shortwave solver
	Tripleclouds, SPARTACUS	
lw_solver_name	Homogeneous, McICA , Tripleclouds, SPARTACUS	Longwave solver
overlap_scheme_name	Max-Ran, Exp-Ran, Exp-Exp	Cloud overlap scheme
use_beta_overlap	false	Use Shonk et al. (2010) ' β ' overlap parameter definition, rather than default ' α '?
cloud_inhom_decorr_scaling	0.5	Ratio of overlap decorrelation lengths for cloud inhomogeneities and boundaries
cloud_fraction_threshold	10^{-6}	Ignore clouds with fraction below this
cloud_mixing_ratio_threshold	10^{-9}	Ignore clouds with total mixing ratio below this
cloud_pdf_shape_name	Gamma, Lognormal	Shape of cloud water PDF
cloud_pdf_override_file_name		Name of NetCDF file of alternative cloud PDF look-up table
do_sw_delta_scaling_with_gases	false	Apply delta-Eddington scaling to particle-gas mixture, rather than particles only
SPARTACUS solver		
do_3d_effects	true	Represent 3D effects when SPARTACUS solver selected
n_regions	2, 3	Number of regions, where one is clear sky and one or two are cloud (the Tripleclouds solver always assumes three regions regardless of this parameter)
do_lw_side_emissivity	true	Represent effective emissivity of the side of clouds (Schäfer et al., 2016)
sw_encroachment_name	Minimum, Computed, Maximum	Encroachment (or 'entrapment') model (note that the behaviour in ecRad version 1.0.1 was 'Maximum' encroachment)
do_3d_lw_multilayer_effects max_3d_transfer_rate	false 10.0	Maximum encroachment for longwave radiation? Maximum rate of lateral exchange between regions in one layer, for stability of matrix exponential (where the default means that as little as e^{-10} of the radiation could remain in a region)
max_gas_od_3d	8.0	3D effects ignored for spectral intervals where gas optical depth of a layer exceeds this, for stability
max_cloud_od	18.0	Maximum in-cloud optical depth, for stability
use_expm_everywhere	false	Use matrix-exponential method even when 3D effects not represented?
clear_to_thick_fraction	0.0	Fraction of cloud edge interfacing directly to the most optically thick cloudy region
overhead_sun_factor	0.0	Minimum tan-squared of solar zenith angle to allow some 'direct' radiation from overhead sun to pass through cloud sides (0.06 used by Hogan et al., 2016)
Surface (under development)		
use_canopy_full_spectrum_sw	false	Perform canopy shortwave radiative transfer at full atmospheric spectral resolution
use_canopy_full_spectrum_lw	false	Perform canopy longwave radiative transfer at full atmospheric spectral resolution
Diagnostics		
iverbosesetup	0, 1, 2, 3 , 4, 5	Verbosity in setup, where 1=warning, 2=info, 3=progress, 4=detailed, 5=debug
iverbose	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Verbosity in execution
do_save_spectral_flux	false	Save flux profiles in each band?
do_save_gpoint_flux	false	Save flux profiles in each g-point?
do_surface_sw_spectral_flux	true	Save surface shortwave fluxes in each band for subsequent diagnostics?
do_lw_derivatives	false	Compute derivatives for Hogan and Bozzo (2015) approximate updates?
do_save_radiative_properties	false	Write intermediate NetCDF file(s) of properties sent to solver (radiative_properties*.nc)?

When calling *ecRad* from within a model, the parameters listed in Table 2.3 are members of the config_type structure, and may be modified within the code at the appropriate place in the configuration stage. The exception is in the case of strings, which are prefixed by _name in the namelist. In the config_type structure there are equivalent integers to express these parameters, which can be changed using the named constants listed in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4: Integers in the config-type structure that represents the strings in Table 2.3, where a namelist parameter named *_name would be named i_* here.

Variable in config_type	Available named constants, default
i_overlap_scheme	IOverlapMaximumRandom, IOverlapExponentialRandom,
	IOverlapExponential
i_solver_sw, i_solver_lw	ISolverHomogeneous, ISolverMcICA, ISolverSpartacus,
	ISolverTripleclouds
i_3d_sw_encroachment	IEncroachmentMinimum, IEncroachmentComputed, IEncroachmentMaximum
i_gas_model	IGasModelMonochromatic, IGasModelIFSRRTMG
i_liq_model	ILiquidModelMonochromatic, ILiquidModelSOCRATES,
	ILiquidModelSlingo
i_ice_model	IIceModelMonochromatic, IIceModelFu, IIceModelBaran2016,
	IIceModelYi
i_cloud_pdf_shape	IPdfShapeGamma, IPdfShapeLognormal

When ecrad is run with the default verbosity settings, it outputs to the screen a summary of the configuration options, the files read and written and details of the aerosol mapping. The following is an example from the default test in the test/ifs directory.

```
----- OFFLINE ECRAD RADIATION SCHEME -----
Copyright (C) 2014-2018 European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
Contact: Robin Hogan (r.j.hogan@ecmwf.int)
Floating-point precision: double
General settings:
 Data files expected in "../../data"
 Clear-sky calculations are ON
                                                             (do_clear=T)
 Saving intermediate radiative properties OFF
                                                             (do_save_radiative_properties=F)
                                                             (do_save_spectral_flux=F)
 Saving spectral flux profiles OFF
 Saving surface shortwave spectral fluxes ON
                                                             (do_surface_sw_spectral_flux=T)
 Gas model is RRTMG-IFS
                                                             (i_gas_model=1)
 Aerosols are ON
                                                             (use_aerosols=T)
 Longwave derivative calculation is ON
                                                             (do_lw_derivatives=T)
Cloud settings:
 Cloud fraction threshold = .100E-05
                                                             (cloud_fraction_threshold)
 Cloud mixing-ratio threshold = .100E-08
                                                             (cloud_mixing_ratio_threshold)
 Liquid optics scheme is SOCRATES
                                                             (i_liq_model=2)
 Ice optics scheme is Fu-IFS
                                                             (i ice model=2)
 Longwave ice optics bug in Fu scheme is OFF
                                                             (do_fu_lw_ice_optics_bug=F)
 Cloud overlap scheme is Exp-Exp
                                                             (i overlap scheme=2)
 Use "beta" overlap parameter is OFF
                                                             (use_beta_overlap=F)
 Cloud PDF shape is Gamma
                                                             (i_cloud_pdf_shape=1)
 Cloud inhom decorrelation scaling = .500
                                                             (cloud_inhom_decorr_scaling)
Solver settings:
 Shortwave solver is McICA
                                                             (i solver sw=1)
 Shortwave delta scaling after merge with gases OFF
                                                             (do_sw_delta_scaling_with_gases=F)
 Longwave solver is McICA
                                                             (i_solver_lw=1)
 Longwave cloud scattering is ON
                                                             (do_lw_cloud_scattering=T)
 Longwave aerosol scattering is OFF
                                                             (do_lw_aerosol_scattering=F)
Reading ../../data/RADRRTM
Reading ../../data/RADSRTM
Reading NetCDF file ../../data/socrates_droplet_scattering_rrtm.nc
Reading NetCDF file ../../data/fu_ice_scattering_rrtm.nc
Reading NetCDF file ../../data/aerosol_ifs_rrtm_43R3.nc
```

```
Aerosol mapping:
  1 -> hydrophilic type 1: Sea salt, bin 1, 0.03-0.5 micron, OPAC
   2 -> hydrophilic type 2: Sea salt, bin 2, 0.50-5.0 micron, OPAC
   3 -> hydrophilic type 3: Sea salt, bin 3, 5.0-20.0 micron, OPAC
   4 -> hydrophobic type 1: Desert dust, bin 1, 0.03-0.55 micron, (SW) Dubovik et al 2002, (LW)...
   5 -> hydrophobic type 2: Desert dust, bin 2, 0.55-0.90 micron, (SW) Dubovik et al 2002, (LW)...
   6 -> hydrophobic type 3: Desert dust, bin 3, 0.90-20.0 micron, (SW) Dubovik et al 2002, (LW)...
   7 -> hydrophilic type 4: Hydrophilic organic matter, OPAC
  8 -> hydrophobic type 10: Hydrophobic organic matter, OPAC (hydrophilic at RH 20-30%)
  9 -> hydrophobic type 11: Black carbon, Olivier Boucher
  10 -> hydrophobic type 11: Black carbon, Olivier Boucher
  11 -> hydrophilic type 5: Ammonium sulfate, GACP
 12 -> hydrophobic type 14: Stratospheric sulfate (hydrophilic ammonium sulfate at RH 20-30%)
Reading NetCDF file ../../data/mcica_gamma.nc
Reading NetCDF file ecrad_meridian.nc
 Warning: variable co_vmr not found
 Warning: variable no2_vmr not found
Writing NetCDF file inputs.nc
Thread 0 processing columns 1-32
Writing NetCDF file ecrad_meridian_default_out.nc
```

2.4 Configuring the offline package

In addition to the namelist parameters described in section 2.3 an additional set of parameters are available in the radiation_config namelist that are specific to the offline version of *ecRad* and are listed in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5: Options for the radiation_config namelist that configures additional aspects of the offline radiation scheme. All entries must be scalars. If an override parameter is present then it need not be included in the input file. The cloud effective sizes (used by the SPARTACUS solver) may be specified for low, middle and high clouds according to the cloud layer pressure p and the surface pressure p_0 .

Parameter	Description
Execution control	
nrepeat	Number of times to repeat, for benchmarking
istartcol	Start at specified input column (1 based)
iendcol	End at specified input column (1 based)
iverbose	Verbosity in offline setup (default 2)
do_parallel	Use OpenMP parallelism? (default true)
nblocksize	Number of columns per block when using OpenMP
do_save_inputs	Sanity check: save input variables in inputs.nc
Override input variables	
solar_irradiance_override	Override solar irradiance (W m ⁻²)
skin_temperature	Override skin temperature (K)
cos_solar_zenith_angle	Override cosine of solar zenith angle
sw_albedo	Override shortwave albedo
lw_emissivity	Override longwave emissivity
fractional_std	Override cloud optical depth fractional standard deviation
overlap_decorr_length	Override cloud overlap decorrelation length (m)
inv_effective_size	Override inverse of cloud effective size (m^{-1})
low_inv_effective_size	for low clouds $(p > 0.8p_0)$
middle_inv_effective_size	for mid-level clouds $(0.45p_0$
high_inv_effective_size	for high clouds ($p \le 0.45p_0$)
Scale input variables	
q_liquid_scaling	Scaling for liquid water mixing ratio
q_ice_scaling	Scaling for ice water mixing ratio
cloud_fraction_scaling	Scaling for cloud fraction (capped at 1)
overlap_decorr_length_scaling	Scaling for cloud overlap decorrelation length
effective_size_scaling	Scaling for cloud effective size

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