

The Infrared Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS) for TMT: Data Reduction System

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ABSTRACT

IRIS (InfraRed Imaging Spectrograph) is the diffraction-limited first light instrument for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) that consists of a near-infrared (0.84 to 2.4 μm) imager and integral field spectrograph (IFS). The IFS makes use of a lenslet array and slicer for spatial sampling, which will be able to operate in 100's of different modes, including a combination of four plate scales from 4 milliarcseconds (mas) to 50 mas with a large range of filters and gratings. The imager will have a field of view of 34×34 arcsec² with a plate scale of 4 mas with many selectable filters. We present the preliminary design of the data reduction system (DRS) for IRIS that need to address all of these observing modes. Reduction of IRIS data will have unique challenges since it will provide real-time reduction and analysis of the imaging and spectroscopic data during observational sequences, as well as advanced post-processing algorithms. The DRS will support three basic modes of operation of IRIS; reducing data from the imager, the lenslet IFS, and slicer IFS. The DRS will be written in Python, making use of open-source astronomical packages available. In addition to real-time data reduction, the DRS will utilize real-time visualization tools, providing astronomers with up-to-date evaluation of the target acquisition and data quality. The quicklook suite will include visualization tools for 1D, 2D, and 3D raw and reduced images. We discuss the overall requirements of the DRS and visualization tools, as well as necessary calibration data to achieve optimal data quality in order to exploit science cases across all cosmic distance scales.

Keywords: integral field spectroscopy, data reduction pipeline

1. INTRODUCTION

IRIS¹ (InfraRed Imaging Spectrograph) is the near-infrared diffraction-limited imager and integral field spectrograph (IFS) for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT). The IRIS IFS will have four spatial scales using a lenslet array (4 and 9 mas) and a slicer (25 and 50 mas). Ref 2 shows the updated the FoV in each configuration of the lenslet and slicer. In addition, IRIS will also have an 34×34 arcsec² field of view (FoV) imager (including small chip gaps) using four Hawaii-4RG (4096 \times 4096) infrared arrays. IRIS wavelength coverage is 0.84-2.4 μm which currently plans to utilize a minimum of 42 different filters, encompassing broad and narrow-band filters. There are currently plans for at least 12 gratings that cover spectral resolving powers of R=4000, 8000 and 10000. With all of these configurations, IRIS will have hundreds of operating modes. This combined with observing

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with a multi-conjugate adaptive optics system on TMT will provide unique challenges to the data reduction system, which needs to provide real-time reduction allowing users to evaluate their data quality and orientation on target.

The planning and data reduction tools for instruments on next generation ground-based telescopes (20 to 40-m class telescopes) will require a level of sophistication similar to that of a spaced-based missions. The scale of these telescopes requires large international partnerships in order to fund their construction and operation, and will need to address a range of diverse users and astronomical studies. Data from these instruments will be significantly advanced, and astronomical users will require planning software and data reduction pipelines that work with a variety of science cases that deliver publishable data products without requiring users to be instrument experts. In addition, in order to optimize the time more efficiently, users will require real-time feedback during their observations so they can adjust and make the best use of their telescope time. In order to be a scientifically productive instrument, it is necessary not only to have a fully developed pipeline that has incorporated multiple science cases but one that give instantaneous feedback that allow for exploratory science that benefits the classical mode of observing and the dual imaging and spectroscopy modes offered by IRIS.

2. DATA REDUCTION SYSTEM (DRS)

The IRIS data reduction system (DRS) is planned to provide real-time ($\lesssim 2$ minutes) data processing of imaging and spectroscopic data, as well as a full off-line reduction package. The DRS will provide visualization tools for raw and reduced data to facilitate data assessment and analysis for real-time and off-line use. There will be three modes of the reduction: imager data, lenslet IFS data, and slicer IFS data. However, because both the lenslet IFS and slicer IFS share the same detector and gratings, they will also share many of the same DRS algorithms. The IRIS DRS is also responsible for processing all raw readouts from each science detector (imager and spectrograph) and generating a raw science quality frame.

The architecture of the full DRS package will be a pipeline, the model used for many existing instruments. In software, a pipeline is a chain of processing elements (i.e. algorithms) arranged so that the output of each element is the input of the next. The data reduction software *system* will serve to link all the algorithms together and provides the necessary software infrastructure. All IRIS data reduction algorithms will be custom-designed for IRIS final data products. The basis of some algorithms will be adapted from previous IFS instruments, such as OSIRIS,³ GPI,^{4,5} NIFS, and SINFONI⁶ pipelines. Numerous near-infrared imagers exist (e.g. NIRC2, NACO^{7,8}), and they will be leveraged to provide algorithms for the Imaging mode whenever possible.

The IRIS DRS will be written in Python and data files will use the flexible image transport system (FITS). Python is advantageous since it is open source, free, has a large community of developers, easy to learn and use, and portable. Many open-source packages are available that are applicable for astronomical data reduction, such as NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, and Astropy. Python has developed momentum in the Astronomical community with recent pipelines such as HIPE⁹ (Herschel), CASA¹⁰ (ALMA and JVL) and MOSFIRE* (Keck). In addition, Python has been selected as the standard reduction software packages developed at Space Science Telescope Institute for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) as well as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope¹¹ (LSST).

The IRIS DRS needs to be developed during the design and fabrication of the instrument, since it needs to be fully delivered during the integration phase of the IRIS imager, spectrograph, on-instrument-wavefront sensors (OIWFS), and NFIRAOS at NRC-Herzberg. The DRS will be crucial for this integration phase for commissioning each of these sub-components 2 years before TMT+IRIS first light.

2.1 Overview

The IRIS DRS will need to coordinate all data processing from the Hawaii-4RG detectors from the imager and spectrograph, and communicate with the TMT data management system (DMS), TMT and AO execute software for all necessary metadata for processing. Figure 1 shows the block diagram of how the DRS will process all IRIS images and data, while interacting with all other TMT and AO sub-components.

We briefly describe the overall layout and flow of the IRIS DRS. Individual reads are readout from IRIS detectors from the imager and spectrograph to the readout disk (DSK-DRS). These reads are immediately copied

*<https://keck-datareductionpipelines.github.io/MosfireDRP/>

to the readout processor computer (ROP-DRS). When an exposure is complete, the ROP-DRS combines all of the reads into a single raw frame for the spectrograph and imager. During the raw frame creation process, the sampling scheme that has been selected by the user will be implemented (e.g. up-the-ramp sampling). Finally, the FITS header is created by a process that polls telemetry data from the various instrument and telescope services such as: executive software (ESW); adaptive optics executive software (AOESW); telescope control system (TCS); and NFIRAOS Science Calibration Unit¹² (NSCU). This telemetry provides critical metadata that is needed by the DRS. Once this step is complete, the raw frames are copied to the data management system (DMS). The DMS will add the required observatory header keywords to the FITS for proper archival following the Common Archive Observation Model^{13,14} (CAOM). The frames containing all of the raw detector reads will be stored in an IRIS archive.

The science pipeline director (SPD-DRS) pulls the necessary calibration files (e.g., flats, white light scans, dark frames) from the DMS for data imager and IFS processing. The reduction algorithms are performed on the imager real-time (IMG-DRP) and spectrograph real-time (IFS-DRP) pipelines. The real-time pipeline will run a subset of routines from the final imager and spectrograph reduction pipeline (F-DRP) in order to more efficiently provide the user with reduced data. The F-DRP will contain all algorithms that any user can access to process off-line at their host institution(s). The real-time reduced science frames (2D, 3D) are then saved to the DMS for archiving. The raw and reduced science and calibration frames can be displayed using a quicklook display and data analysis visualization (VIS-DRS) tools. The final off-line data reduction pipeline (USER-DRS) includes the ROP-DRS, SPD-DRS, F-DRP and VIS-DRS. With the USER-DRS, the user can fully process and visualize their data using the full set of routines.

In the following sections, we will go over the DRS requirements (§2.2), algorithms for each of the pipelines (§2.3), calibration files required (§2.4), metadata required (§2.5), storage formats (§2.6) and visualization of the data (§2.7).

2.2 Requirements

The TMT and IRIS high-level requirement on the IRIS DRS are the following:

- Reduced data for the imager (2D) and spectrograph (3D) shall be available for user assessment in less than 30 seconds and 60 seconds, respectively, to verify telescope pointing, instrument configuration, object geometry and data quality.
- The DRS will include a visualization software package for viewing and conducting basic analysis tools for 1D, 2D, and 3D FITS files.

2.3 Algorithms

The IRIS DRS will essentially have both real-time and final data pipelines (DRP) that will address imager and IFS data. The DRP user package will include the full set of algorithms. The imager DRP will include the following algorithms: sky/dark subtraction; correction of detector artifacts (e.g. crosstalk, bias adjustments); correction of cosmic rays; flat fielding; field distortion correction; flux calibration; PSF calibration; and advanced shift and add (mosaicking). The IFS DRP will include the following algorithms: sky/dark subtraction; correction of detector artifacts; correction of cosmic rays; flat fielding (slicer IFS only); spectral extraction (separate routines for slicer IFU and lenslet IFU); wavelength solution (separate routines for slicer IFU and lenslet IFU); cube (x, y, λ) assembly (separate routines for slicer IFU and lenslet IFU); and residual atmospheric dispersion correction. The real-time pipelines (IMG-DRP and IFS-DRP) will utilize the subset of the final pipeline (F-DRP). This subset includes; sky/dark subtraction, correction of detector artifacts, correction of cosmic rays, flat fielding, spectral extraction, and cube assembly (x, y, λ).

Table 1 and 2 summarize the algorithms used by the imager and spectrograph DRP. Table 3 summarize the advanced algorithms. Each description includes a basic outline of what input data it receives, what other auxiliary data it requires (calibration data are described in Section 2.4), what it outputs, and what steps are performed to achieve its goal.

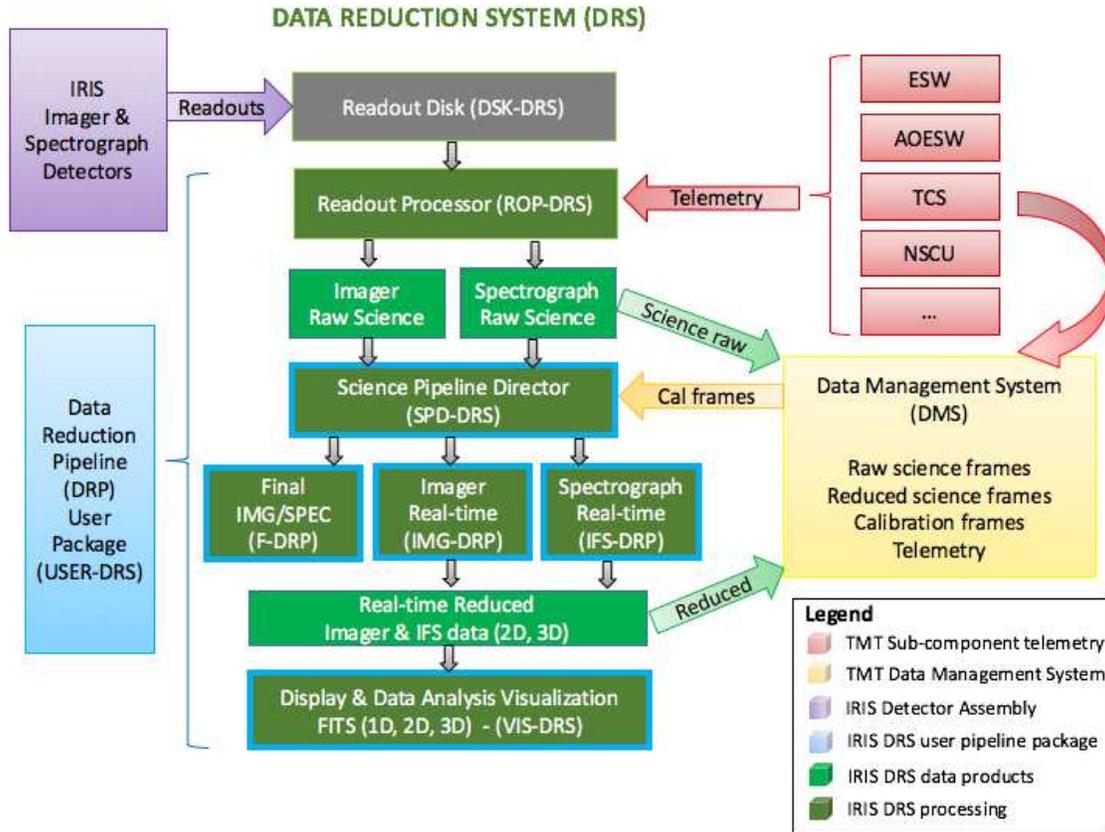


Figure 1. The IRIS Data Reduction System (DRS) block diagram illustrates the flow of data products, data processing, and data deliverable. The DRS is responsible for storing individual raw readouts from the imager and spectrograph detectors (purple) and is stored on a local disk (grey) for real-time data processing (dark green). Real-time telemetry (red) from the executive software (ESW), adaptive optics executive software (AOESW), TCS (Telescope Control System), NFIRAOS Science Calibration Unit (NSCU), and other sub-components will be retrieved by the DRS readout processor (ROP-DRS). The ROP-DRS will process raw readouts from the detectors (e.g., up-the-ramp sampling) to generate raw science frames. A real-time data reduction pipeline for the imager (IMG-DRP) and spectrograph (IFS-DRP) will be conducted on-sky, and final data reduction will be processed by the user using the F-DRP and data pipeline package (USER-DRS; blue). Both raw science frames and reduced science frames (2D, 3D) are then saved to the TMT data management system (yellow) for archiving. A quicklook display and data analysis visualization will be used during real-time and post-processing.

The IRIS spectrograph will have four plate scale modes; the lenslet (4mas and 9mas) and slicer (25 mas and 50 mas). The slicer mode will require an extra flat-fielding step, which is standard for slit-type reductions. The sky-subtraction will be performed by utilizing a scaled sky-subtraction that accounts for changes in the absolute flux of OH lines, as well as variations in specific vibration bands of the OH lines.¹⁵ Furthermore, we are also investigating the use of more advanced sky-subtraction algorithms, such as SKYCORR,¹⁶ which uses solar and atmospheric data to model the sky emission model throughout a night of observations. This procedure was developed around Cerro Paranal site, however it can be utilized at other sites where a wealth of atmospheric data exist such as Mauna Kea.

2.4 Calibration

Auxiliary data used in DRP algorithms are called calibration data. This includes both on-sky data (that is not of the astronomical target itself), daytime calibration frames, and other sub-component metadata. Metadata is non-image information that will typically come from the header of raw FITS files, or from IRIS, TCS, and/or NFIRAOS via the observatory ESW event service. The NFIRAOS Science Calibration Unit (NSCU) will include

Table 1. DRS imaging subroutines. Note: FRS = Frames, SCI = Science, CR = Cosmic Ray, DIV = Division, DIST = Distortion

DRS post processing	Input	Output	Function
Generate master dark	Darks	Master dark	Median combine
Dark subtraction	SCI	Dark subtracted FRS	Subtraction
Remove detector artifacts	Dark subtracted FRS	Cleaned FRS	Bad pixel and CR removal
Flat Fielding	Cleaned FRS	Flat fielded FRS	DIV by normalized flat field
Scaled sky-subtraction	Flat fielded FRS	Sky-subtracted SCI	Scale factor from sky FRS
Field distortion correction	Sky-subtracted SCI	DIST corrected FRS	Field distortion correction
Flux calibration	DIST corrected FRS	Flux calibrated SCI	Flux calibration
Mosaic/Combine SCI	Flux calibrated SCI	Final combine SCI	Dither shifts

Table 2. DRS spectroscopy subroutines. Note: * - Slicer only, ADC - Atmospheric Dispersion Correction

DRS post processing	Input	Output	Function
Generate master dark	Darks	Master dark	Median combine
Dark subtraction	SCI	Dark subtracted FRS	Subtraction
Remove detector artifacts	Dark subtracted FRS	Cleaned FRS	Bad pixel and CR removal
Flat Fielding*	Cleaned FRS	Flat fielded FRS	DIV by normalized flat field
Spectral extraction	Cleaned SCI	Extracted SCI	Advanced spectral extraction
Wavelength calibration	Extracted SCI	Wav calibrated SCI	Least square minimization
Cube assembly	Wav calibrated SCI	3D SCI cubes	Cube assembly
Scaled sky-subtraction	3D SCI cubes	Sky-subtracted SCI	OH and continuum scaling
Residual ADC	Sky-subtracted SCI	ADC SCI	Atm. Dispersion Correction
Telluric correction	ADC SCI	Telluric corrected SCI	Telluric feature removal
Flux calibration	Telluric corrected SCI	Flux calibrated SCI	Flux calibration
Mosaic/Combine SCI	Flux calibrated SCI	Final combined SCI	Dither shifts

a calibration system that will facilitate the taking of daytime calibration frames, such as arc lamp spectra, white light flat field images, and pinhole grids for measuring distortion. Table 4 summarizes the required calibration files necessary for the IRIS DRS.

2.5 Metadata

Metadata is additional information stored in the FITS file header that describes essential data taken at the telescope, AO system, instrument, and all other sub-component systems. Metadata will relay information regarding individual observations or calibrations that are necessary to the DRS.

The metadata written to the FITS headers by IRIS will serve two purposes for the DRS:

- Provide necessary environmental information about the observation to reduce the data.
- Identity the file type (i.e. science, arc, flat, etc).

Metadata functions as a way to relay important environmental information about the telescope, instrument and AO system to the DRS. The metadata written will be used for the majority of the DRS algorithms. For example, temperature and pressure information is needed to determine the position of the spectra on the detector. The DRS will require metadata from the following systems: telescope control system; tip-tilt and focus sensors (e.g., wavefront sensor counts); deformable mirror status; pupil plane location; AO telemetry; and PSF reconstruction. For example, the DRS will need to know the temperature/pressure in the following locations: primary mirror back-side, primary mirror front-side, secondary, outside the dome, grating turret wheel, slicer array, dewar and detector (imager and spectrograph), and NFIRAOS. In addition, adopting the model in which every read is saved, to make use of this mode it is important that real-time telemetry information is stored

Table 3. DRS advanced post processing subroutines. Note: SCI = raw science frame, EXP = Exposure, PSF = Point spread function, PSF-R = PSF-reconstruction

Advanced post processing	Input	Output	Function
Optimizing readouts	Readouts per EXP	Individual SCI	S/N optimization & telemetry
PSF-reconstruction	Telemetry per SCI	Generated PSF-R per SCI	PSF-R

Table 4. Calibration Frames. Note: * = SPEC only, PTG = pointing, D-Map = Distortion Map, Env = Environmental, DTC = Daytime calibration, NTC = Nighttime calibration

Name	Reference Type	Source	Algorithms
Atm. Dispersion Residual	Metadata	IRIS ADC	Atmospheric Correction
Arc lamp spectra*	CAL (2D)	IRIS DTC (NSCU)	Wavelength solution
Bad pixel map	CAL (2D)	IRIS DTC	Correction of detector artifacts
Dark Frame	CAL (2D)	IRIS DTC and NTC	Dark subtraction
Env metadata	Metadata	ESW, FITS header	All
Fiber image	CAL (2D, 3D)	IRIS DTC (NSCU)	PSF Calibration
Flux calibration star	CAL (2D, 3D)	IRIS On-sky	Extract Star, Remove Absorption Lines
Instrument config	Metadata	ESW, FITS header	All
Lenslet scan*	Rect Matrix, CAL (2D)	IRIS DTC (NSCU)	Spectral Extraction
NFIRAOS config	Metadata	ESW, FITS header	All
Pinhole Grid (D-Map)	CAL (2D)	IRIS DTC (NSCU)	Field distortion correction
PSF metadata	Metadata	ESW, FITS header	PSF calibration
PSF star	CAL (2D, 3D)	IRIS on-sky	PSF calibration
Sky frame	CAL (2D, 3D)	IRIS on-sky	Sky-subtraction
Telescope config PTG	Metadata	ESW, FITS header	All

within the FITS headers. This will be critical information needed in order to correct for PSF variations from read-to-read.

Metadata will be used by the DRS to identify which frames are science frames (e.g, imager, IFS slicer, IFS lenslet), flats, darks and calibration frames. Since the DRS will operate automatically when data is readout from the detector the DRS needs to identify all frames necessary to reduce without any ambiguity. The DRS will require a standardization of the metadata in order to properly identify the frames. The assignment of the metadata should be automatically determined by the mode of the instrument (i.e. if the astronomer needs to take darks, the frame will be identified as a dark). The assignment of the metadata should be seamless to the astronomer observing with IRIS. This work flow will mitigate the accidental mis-assignment of data type in each FITS file.

2.6 Storage Format Discussion

Astronomy data formats have been using the FITS standard since the 1970s. FITS consists of two portions; a binary portion which stores the data in the form of an image/spectrum or table, and an ASCII portion which contains keywords and values associated with the data. The ASCII portion, or FITS header stores metadata about each observational frame.

Metadata requirements of the DRS open up the considerations of different storage formats with the use of IRIS. This process is a challenging task as the instrument team attempts to project what the standard format will be at the time of TMT first light. For example, LSST is currently considering HDF5¹⁷ and ASDF¹⁸ format instead of FITS, though their data rates far exceed any modern telescope by many magnitudes. JWST on the other hand is considering ASDF over FITS. While the FITS format is the standard format used throughout

observatories and space telescopes, it was created well before many well established on-line databases (e.g SQL¹⁹) and parsing code became an industry standard in the software community.

One of the difficulties of the FITS format is the limitation and flexibility of the 8 character keyword used to identify values that may be needed by the DRS.²⁰ These header key words often become more like random strings and can become less organized. For example, when dealing with adaptive optics data, the DRS will need to keep track of all wavefront sensor changes in the AO system, in order to accurately reconstruct the PSF and process raw readouts. This keyword values will be rapidly changing and we may want a more flexible data storage system for data searching and parsing. One solution would be steer-away from the FITS standard, such as Hierarch used by ESO[†], which adds multiple levels of key words and strings. This “hierarchical” structure enables a cleaner organization as well keys that are in a understandable language. However, this solution is adhoc to the FITS standard and is not yet globally accepted in the astronomical community. Thus far, TMT and IRIS has selected the FITS format to proceed, but our team is actively monitoring other data storage methods that may be implemented by LSST and JWST.

2.7 Visualization

The IRIS DRS will include visualization software for both real-time observing and post-processing data analysis. Since the DRS will be running real-time, IRIS users will require an easily functioning tool to display and assess the quality of the raw and reduced imager and spectrograph data sets. The DRS will require that the visualization tool will view 1D, 2D and 3D raw and reduced data.

There already exists well designed and easy-to-use visualization community tools for displaying 2D images (e.g. DS9 SAOimage[‡]). 3D visualization tools on the other hand are generally more specialized towards a specific instrument, and historically have been developed by the instrument team (e.g., OSIRIS, GPI). A larger community effort is needed for these tools to reach the same maturity as the 2D visualization tools. Development and advancement of a 3D visualization tool is necessary for IRIS reduced data cubes. The 3D visualization tools should include the ability to collapse the entire data cube along different axes and functions (i.e., median, average). The visualization tool should also allow easy inspection of individual spectra, integrated spectra over a drag-able selection window. PSF assessment tools will also need to be implemented for both the 2D and 3D data sets (e.g, FWHM, Strehl ratio calculation).

General visualization tools will be included: adjust brightness (stretch) and contrast of the frames; image stretch schemes (e.g, linear, log, power law); invert the stretch; pan; recenter; zoom in and zoom out; collapse image to a specific channel; compute statistics on regions of pixels or spaxels (e.g., sum, error, area, surface brightness, mean, median, minimum, maximum, variance, standard deviation); centroid on the peak of a source; plot horizontal, vertical and diagonal cuts across the image; display a surface plot; and display a contour plot; and have functionality to overplot multiple images and spectra with specified regions. Our team is working on developing the full requirements of the visualization, that advances current imaging functions, and identifies additional features that are needed by the IRIS science team.

3. CHALLENGES

The astrometric and photometric requirements for IRIS pose unique challenges for data processing of diffraction-limited imager and spectrograph for a 30m aperture. In this section, we highlight just a *few* of the major challenges that the DRS will face in developing a pipeline that generates superb science-ready images and data cubes.

3.1 Simultaneous observing modes

IRIS is designed to have a 34×34 arcsec² FoV imager with a pickoff mirror sending the central region (optimized NFIRAOS correction) to the IFS. This design allows for simultaneous data to be taken with the imager and IFS. This mode opens up a new avenue of science cases, but also poses some technical challenges for the DRS observing modes. In addition, the current design has a single filter wheel in the collimated beam before the

[†]http://fits.gsfc.nasa.gov/registry/hierarch_keyword.html

[‡]<http://ds9.si.edu>

pickoff mirror to the IFS, so filters selected need to work for both the imager and IFS. PSF-reconstruction will need to be optimized for both the central field for the IFS as a function of wavelength, as well as optimized for the larger field of view of the imager. The simultaneous observations with the imager and IFS, also means that narrow- and broad-band spectrograph filters will need to be photometrically calibrated for the imager, as further described below.

3.1.1 Filters

The preliminary filter set for IRIS can be found in Ref. 1. The IRIS filter set will be similar to OSIRIS filter data sets, and other near-infrared imaging cameras, which would include broadband and narrowband filters in Z, Y, J, H and K bands. While the exact throughputs of the filters will not be determined until the filters are procured, their wavelength bandpass (e.g., 5, 20%) have consequences for the dual imaging and spectroscopy modes.

The IRIS optical design has the NFIRAOS corrected beam feeding both the imager and IFS. Along the optical path, the IRIS imager first samples the 34" x 34" FoV, and then a pick-off mirror feeds the optical-axis to the IFS. A large filter wheel mechanism resides inside the imager optical train and feeds both the imager and spectrograph. This poses a challenge in the dual operation mode as the spectroscopic filter set have different bandpasses than the traditional near-infrared imaging filter sets. This means that spectroscopy driven observing programs will drive the filter used for parallel imaging.

There are two sets of spectroscopic filters; broadband and narrowband filters. The narrowband filters are 5% bandpass to provide some wavelength coverage, while offering a larger FoV for the IFS modes. Spectroscopic broadband filters (i.e., Zbb, Ybb, Jbb, Hbb, Kbb) are designed to cover as much wavelength real estate as possible, and does not have to worry about atmospheric and backgrounds as traditional imaging filters (e.g., Z, J, Ks) were designed to optimize. Figure 2 shows the broadband filter sets for IRIS. Table 5 illustrates the transmission differences between the spectroscopic broadband filters and the standard near-infrared filter bandpasses. The broadband spectroscopic filters Hbb and Kbb are the most similar to the standard near-infrared equivalents. While Zbb, Ybb and Jbb have more significant differences than the traditional broadband imaging filters (Z, Y, J). Ybb not only shows the greatest difference $>2\times$ but almost contains $\sim 3\times$ more sky emission. In addition, Zbb, Ybb and Jbb overlap with nearby filters whereas the typical near-infrared equivalents do not. These different bandpasses will need to be fully characterize for the imaging camera, especially if a number of the science cases focuses primarily on using the spectroscopic filters.

Table 5. Transmission ratio between imager and spectrograph filter bandpasses

Ratio	Zbb/Z	Ybb/Y	Jbb/J	Hbb/H	Kbb/K
Filter	1.96	2.18	1.55	1.14	1.09
Filter + Atmosphere Transmission	...	2.11	1.35	1.12	1.09
Filter + Sky	...	2.83	1.29	1.11	1.09

3.1.2 Imaging Dithering

The simultaneous imaging and spectroscopic modes may pose some challenges in imaging and IFS data reductions. The IFS FoV is significantly smaller than the imager, and dither patterns between the imager and IFS will require careful planning and coordination. The construction of clean sky background that will be beneficial to both the imager and IFS will need to be particularly considered. The near-infrared sky is variable both due to thermal and OH-emission variability on minute time scales. For instance, long exposures (> 600 sec) which are beneficial to dark-limited spectrograph observations would keep the imager data fixed at a stationary dither pattern. In contrast, when the imager science requires rapid dithering and telescope offsets this will impact the IFS total integration on source, as well as a collective sky frame(s) for background subtraction.

There are several sky cases encountered when constructing the sky background, that depend on the density of objects observed. The following cases are examples of different dithering strategies:

1. object(s) fills the majority or all of the field of view (high density; e.g. nebulae, dense star clusters) \implies separate sky (large dither)

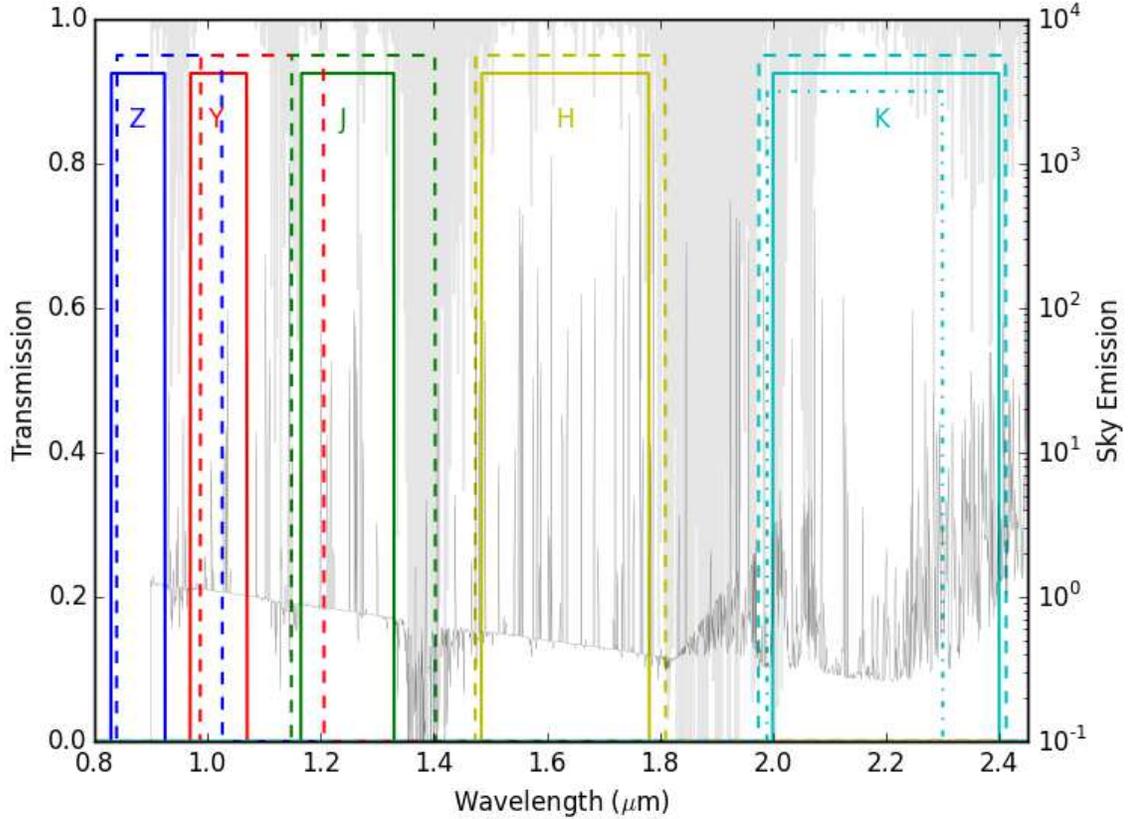


Figure 2. IRIS near-infrared broadband filters with the atmospheric transmission and sky background (solid black line) taken on Mauna Kea (Gemini near-IR transmission). The light gray shows opaque regions in the atmosphere. The solid black lines shows the sky emission (Gemini near-IR sky background). The solid lines are the standard near-IR imaging filters (Z, Y, J, H and K). The dash lines are the IRIS spectroscopic filters (Zbb, Ybb, Jbb, Hbb and Kbb) that 20% bandpass. The dash-dotted line is the standard Ks filter. The filters are staggered for clarity since the total throughput per wavelength are not yet known.

2. object(s) have medium density to low density (e.g. galaxy clusters, open star clusters) \implies science for sky (depending on the size of the objects; medium to small dithers)
3. object(s) have medium to high density (e.g., stellar clusters, Galactic Center) but require small dither pattern for astrometric accuracy
4. object(s) have very low density \implies science for sky (tiny dithers)

For the low density object distributions, the tiny dither would be sufficient to construct a sky background. One of the difficulties with this method may be dealing with large CRs and hot pixels. The large density object distributions would be similar to how other imagers deal with this problem which is a large dither on blank sky to use for the sky background construction. Medium density object distributions could use two possible solutions; (1) Sky dithers or (2) 2-target (N-target) dither. Currently in order to remove the sky background from the IFS, it is necessary to dither off source for a few frames (1/3 time) to take a pure sky spectrum for use in the scaled-sky algorithm (ref). One possibility is to randomly dither for the IFS sky which could be used to generate the imager sky. The other solution is to use a 2-target (or N-target) dither, where there are two IFS targets within the FoV of the imager, it would be possible to dither to both targets between exposures. However, ideally

more dithers would be necessary for the masking process. Such a process could be accomplished efficiently in a dense field where multiple targets require IFS spectroscopy.

We are currently investigating these dither pattern scenarios, especially alternative methods for dealing with the sky background removal for both the imager and IFS.

3.2 Data Rates and Storage

One of the goals of TMT observatory's DMS is to archive raw data from all TMT instruments for data storage and delivery to astronomical users. The DMS is currently only being designed to store raw science quality files. Our team is currently exploring the technical and scientific merits for storing all individual reads from the imaging and spectrograph detectors, to improve the quality of the reduction in both real-time and during post-processing. Indeed, there are several missions that have greatly benefited with saving all individual detector reads (e.g, NASA Spitzer) that have generated additional science results that would not have been possible without this capability.

Raw science-quality near-infrared astronomical frames are typically produced in the following:

- Reads are read from the detector into memory (readouts)
- Intermediate reduction is performed for all reads for a user defined exposure time
 - Reference pixel subtraction, linearization, deinterlacing, bad pixel flagging
 - Up-the-ramp (UTR)/Multiple Correlated Double Sampling (MCDS) computed for each coadd
 - Coadds added/averages
- A final file with combined readouts are written to disk as a FITS file (raw science frame)

In this typical readout method, the intermediate reduction is run before the science-quality raw FITS file is created. Our team has been exploring the possibility and advantages of saving every individual read to allow for greater flexibility and performance improvements in the reduction process. For example, if the *seeing* degrades for a select number of individual reads, those reads can be removed in post-processing to improve the overall S/N of the raw science frame. This will require that metadata from the AO system, TCS, and other supporting systems would need to be recorded in real-time. The astronomical user then has the flexibility of optimizing their reductions during post-processing using the needed telemetry associated with each readout. This is especially true (and likely) if there are newer sampling schemes or masking techniques not considered yet by the instrument team, then the astronomical user can greatly benefit from storing all individual reads.

Table 6 explores the maximum data rates possible with the imager and spectrograph setup. The maximum data rates calculated assumes the following configuration: a pixel clocking rate of 400 MHz with 64 readout channels gives a minimum read time of 0.72 seconds; Correlated Double Sampling (CDS) clock time of 2.16 seconds per exposure; 4k×4k detector will have 64 MB per exposure; and the observing run will be 16 hours per night (science with calibrations); and assuming 91 total observing nights per year. This method is with (unrealistically) taking raw frames continuously in CDS with the minimum integration time (including 1 reset) and ignoring overhead between frames (on average 1/2 read time and could be as much as 1 read time). Table 6, column 2 shows the maximum data rates is all individual readouts are saved. Each of these calculations ignore real world overheads, such as resets, pausing exposures during target acquisition, and telescope dithering. Since each individual read are in integers, these files will be written with 16 bits/pixel.

The total data rates per detector and 5 detectors, including raw and readout frames, is listed in Table 6, columns 3 and 4. Currently, the planned implementation of data storage is that raw science (FITS) frames are stored on the DMS. Individual readouts will be stored on the IRIS stand-alone readout disk, and our team is investigating future archiving and long-term solutions. To store ~3 months of individual readouts taken at the maximum data rates would require ~280 TB storage.

Table 6. Maximum IRIS data rates with continuous data taking configuration. The total per detector is calculated by summing the raw frames and the readouts.

Raw Frames	Readouts	Total Per Detector	Total Per 5 Detectors
29.6 MB/s	44 MB/s	73.6 MB/s	368 MB/s
104 GB/hr	156 GB/hr	260 GB/hr	1.27 TB/hr
1666 files/hr	5000 files/hr	6666 files/hr	33,330 files/hr
1.64 TB/night	2.44 TB/night	4.08 TB/night	20.4 TB/night
26,666 files/night	80,000 files/night	106,666 files/night	533,330 files/night
149 TB/yr	222 TB/yr	371 TB/yr	1.81 PB/yr
2,426,600 files/yr	7,280,000 files/yr	9,706,600 files/yr	48,533,000 files/yr

3.3 Spectral Extraction

The IRIS DRS require separate and unique spectral extraction routines for the lenslet array and slicer IFS.

The spectral extraction methods used in the DRS for the slicer will be similar to Gemini NIFS and VLT SINFONI. The spectral format of the slicer will be spatially compact across the detector, and will be spaced uniformly across the detector. A traditional spectral tracing routine will work sufficiently for extracting individual spectra across the detector, utilizing optimal extraction.²¹

The spectral extraction of the lenslet array IFS spectra will be an algorithm intensive task for the DRS. Lenslet spectra are dispersed onto the detector with a staggered formation to avoid spectral overlap. In order to pack the lenslet spectra efficiently, spectra are usually minimally separated where the wings of the spectral PSF of each lenslet overlap with neighboring lenslets. The spacing between the lenslet spectra in the current design is ~ 2.5 pixel on the detector. In order to reconstruct the spectra from the lenslet IFS, the extraction usually requires some form of deconvolution.

In Keck OSIRIS, the implementation of the deconvolution is Richardson-Lucy algorithm, which assigns flux to each of the lenslets iteratively. The PSF of each lenslet is stable and is typically pre-determined by taking white light scans using a bright continuum source that measures the PSF of each lenslet accurately. This PSF template is then used in the iterative deconvolution routine to assign flux to each individual lenslet and the contribution to neighboring lenslets. While the deconvolution process for OSIRIS performs very well, there are several areas that could be improved and explored for newer routines that can take advantage of increased CPU power. For instance, we are exploring adopting new calibration methods to trace out the 2D PSF of each of the lenslet. Another possibility is using different deconvolution algorithms, such as Gauss-Seidel and Maximum-Entropy.

4. SUMMARY

IRIS on TMT promises to be scientifically pivotal instrument providing the diffraction limited near-IR spectroscopy and imaging. The IRIS DRS will play an important role in the acquisition and reduction of science data. The goals of the DRS are to provide publishable science-quality data and visualization tools for analysis and acquisition. In this paper we have outlined the overall flow of the pipeline, as well as the types of algorithms, calibrations, and metadata that it requires. While FITS is the format currently adopted by the instrument team, other formats are being monitored for potential adoption in order to offer new capabilities and provide a standard format with the rest of the Astronomical community. The DRS will require visualization and basic analysis tools that can handle multiple data dimensions (1d, 2d, and 3d). There are multiple challenges associated with the DRS for satisfying the dual imaging and IFS modes and data rates associated with saving individual readouts from the Hawaii-4RG detector. The DRS will be an essential component of the IRIS instrument, and will greatly aid in commissioning of TMT and NFIRAOS, as well as being vital to the science productivity.

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