

## **Data Format Documentation**

Instrument: Micro rain radar 2<sup>nd</sup> generation (MRR2), MC3E Field Campaign

The MRR2 data set is contained within daily compressed tar archives. The daily archive is named with the following convention,

mrr\_mc3e\_[latitude\_longitude]\_[date].tar.gz

where [latitude\_longitude]=geographic location of instrument  
(e.g., N363442.07\_W0972640.90 is North 36°34'42.07" and West  
97°26'40.90")  
[date] = YYYYmmDD (e.g., 20110422)

and consists of ASCII formatted files containing measurements of the received spectral power and parameters derived from the measurements.

*During MC3E the MRR2 was located adjacent to the NOAA S-band and UHF profilers and Parsivel at the SGP Central Facility.*

---

The following files are contained within the tar archive:

- \*.raw: (i.e., raw data or raw spectrum) raw mean spectral power received by the radar over 10 seconds for each height step
  - \*.pro: (i.e., processed or instantaneous data) spectral reflectivity corrected for noise and attenuation, drop size distribution, spectral drop density, fall velocity, attenuation, radar reflectivity, and integral rainfall parameters (e.g., rain rate, liquid water content) derived from one raw spectrum (methods described in Peters et al. 2005 and Peters et al. 2010)
  - \*.ave: (i.e., averaged data) contains the same parameters as the processed data derived except from multiple raw spectra integrated over 60 seconds
- 

Format of each file in MRR data set:

Level 0: raw spectrum data (\*.raw)

Format: ASCII

Format of each line:

*SEE APPENDIX*

Level 1: processed or instantaneous data (\*.pro)

Format: ASCII

Format of each line:  
*SEE APPENDIX*

Level 2: averaged data (\*.ave)

Format: ASCII

Format of each line:  
*SEE APPENDIX*

---

References:

Peters, Gerhard, Bernd Fischer, Hans Münster, Marco Clemens, Andreas Wagner, 2005: Profiles of Raindrop Size Distributions as Retrieved by Microrain Radars. *J. Appl. Meteor.*, **44**, 1930–1949.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JAM2316.1>

Peters, Gerhard, Bernd Fischer, Marco Clemens, 2010: Rain Attenuation of Radar Echoes Considering Finite-Range Resolution and Using Drop Size Distributions. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, **27**, 829–842.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/2009JTECHA1342.1>

---

*Last Updated: October 19, 2012*

## APPENDIX

*The pages included in this Appendix are taken from the MRR-2 User Manual (METEK GmbH 2008) with expressed written consent of METEK GmbH.*

METEK GmbH, 2008: MRR-2 Micro rain radar User Manual. METEK GmbH, Elmshorn, Germany, 46 pp.

## 6.3 Instantaneous and averaged data

### 6.3.1 Format description

Instantaneous and averaged data are archived in two separate directory structures (see chapter 7.1.2 Data Recording on page 40). Optional recording of so called raw data, which represent the unprocessed measuring data of the MRR-2, is only useful for special purposes.

The data format is human readable ASCII text. Each data set consists of one line. The order of the data lines and the used identifiers are listed below:

Identifier	Meaning	Unit	Remark
MRR	<i>Header Line</i>	n.A.	
H	<i>Height</i>	m	
TF	<i>Transfer Function</i>	dimensionless	
Fnn	<i>Spectral Reflectivities</i>	dB	$10 \cdot \log ?_{nn}$ with $?_{nn}$ in $m^{-1}$ $nn$ from $\min(h)$ to $\max(h)$ <sup>3</sup>
Dnn	<i>Drop Size</i>	mm	Center of size class
Nnn	<i>Spectral Drop Densities</i>	$m^{-3}mm^{-1}$	$N(D_{nn})$ <sup>3</sup>
PIA	<i>Path Integrated Attenuation</i>	dB	
Z	<i>Radar Reflectivity</i>	dBZ	$10 \log \left( \sum_{nn=\min(h)}^{nn=\max(h)} N(D_{nn}) D_{nn}^6 \right)$ $nn$ from $\min(h)$ to $\max(h)$
z	<i>Attenuated Radar Reflectivity</i>	dBZ	Z-PIA
RR	<i>Rain Rate</i>	$mm h^{-1}$	
LWC	<i>Liquid Water Contents</i>	$g m^{-3}$	
W	<i>Fall Velocity</i>	$m s^{-1}$	

<sup>1)</sup> See *MRR-Physical Basics* for details.

The measured data are displayed in lines following the header. For each measured variable there is one line starting with a 3-character identifier of the variable. Each line represents a profile of this variable, i.e. a function versus height. Each data entry is 7 characters wide. Height is running from left to right

<sup>3</sup> See *MRR-Physical Basics* for details.

in increments according to the chosen height resolution of the MRR. Invalid or not calculable values are coded as 7 consecutive space characters. Space characters—at the end of a line are omitted in order to save disk space. So lines can have different lengths although representing the same number of height steps.

### **MRR – Header Line**

*Entries common to instantaneous and averaged data:*

The header line marks the beginning of a data set. It starts with the identifying string "MRR", a space character and a date/time stamp.

The date/time stamp consists of 12 digits (format *YYMMDDhhmmss*), a single space character and the name of the time zone. This name starts with the string „UTC“ and is optionally followed by an offset value (format  $\pm hh$  or  $\pm hhss$ ).

The end of the header line shows a data quality parameter consisting of the identifying string "MDQ", a single space character and a 3digit number between 0 and 100. It is the percentage of valid spectra collected during the averaging interval. Spectra can be invalid due to saturation of the AD converter – caused either by extreme precipitation or by some interference.

*Entries only in averaged data:*

Averaging time in seconds ("AVE"), height resolution in meters ("STP"), height of the ground level above sea level in meters ("ASL"), sampling rate ("SMP") of the RADAR signal in the time domain (unit: Hz), parameters for the automatic noise level adjustment ("NF0" and "NF1" without unit), version number of the MRR Service ("SVS"), version number of the MRR firmware ("DVS"), serial number of the MRR ("DSN") and the calibration constant ("CC").

Each of the parameters in the header line starts with a delimiting space character, the 3-character identifier as shown above in the parentheses and a field of 6 characters for the numerical value (except of the serial number, which can consist of up to 10 numeric characters between 0 and 9).

Example (Each entry of the header line is shown in a separate line of the table) :

MRR*090612040200 UTC	The header line dates from June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2009, 4:02 AM, UTC.
AVE***60	Averaging time is 60 seconds.
STP***35	Height resolution is 35 meters.
ASL***147	The radar is sited 147 meters above sea level.
SMP*125e3	Sampling rate is 125,000 Hz.
NF0*1.000	Noise level 0 set to 1.000 (used only in older versions).
NF1*0.000	Noise level 1 set to 0.000 (used only in older versions).
SVS*5.20	Version number of the MRR Service is 5.20.
DVS*5.10	Version number of the MRR firmware is 5.10.
DSN*020704	Serial number of the MRR is 020704.
CC*2066000	Calibration constant is 2066000.
MDQ*100	Percentage of valid spectra is 100.

## H - Height

Argument of the following data profiles corresponding to the settings described in chapter 6.2.3, page 20, and chapter 6.2.4, page 23. The units are meters above the radar system.

## TF - Transfer Function

To each height step a value of the Transfer Function is assigned by which raw data are divided.

## Fnn with nn from 0 to 63 - FFT Spectra

Each line represents a profile of spectral reflectivity corresponding to the spectral bin *nn*. As **Fnn** is corrected for the receiver noise floor negative values can occur, if the signal to noise ratio is low. These entries cannot be presented in the logarithmic domain and are replaced by space characters.

## Dnn with nn from min(h) to max(h) - Drop Sizes

The drop size is described by the diameter of an equivolumic sphere. The spectral bins of drop numbers are of variable width in the size domain (in contrast with spectral bins in the frequency- and velocity-domain). In addition, the

widths of the size bins are slightly height dependent. Therefore the assignment of frequency-bin-index  $nn$  to diameter  $D$  is listed explicitly for each bin and height. The center of each size class is displayed.

### **Nnn with $nn$ from $\min(h)$ to $\max(h)$ - Spectral Drop Densities**

With the knowledge of the frequency of the Doppler-shift the calculation of the corresponding drop fall velocity is possible (equation 1.4.3.2 in MRR Physical Basics). Thus each FFT-line stands for a drop size interval. Chapter 2 in the Physical Basics shows how to derive from the received spectral power the number of drops for this drop size class, and finally – by division through the variable class width – the spectral drop densities.

Only a sub-set of all 64 spectral bins is considered for the calculation. The lower ( $\min(h)$ ) and upper limit ( $\max(h)$ ) depends on the height as described in MRR Physical Basics (Fig. 7).

In case of negative values of  $F_{nn}$  negative drop number densities are calculated. Although they have no physical meaning they are retained in order to avoid statistical biases.

### **PIA - Path Integrated Attenuation<sup>1)</sup>**

The two-way Path integrated attenuation by rain drops is calculated as described in chapter 3.2 MRR-Physical Basis and is used for correction of  $N_{nn}$ ,  $Z$ ,  $RR$  and  $LWC$ .

### **$z$ - Attenuated Radar Reflectivity<sup>2)</sup>**

$z$  is the radar reflectivity factor (see chapter 3.1 MRR-Physical Basics) without attenuation correction

### **$Z$ - Radar Reflectivity<sup>2)</sup>**

$Z$  is the radar reflectivity factor (see chapter 3.1 MRR-Physical Basics)

### **$RR$ - Rain Rate<sup>2)</sup>**

$RR$  is the rain rate (see chapter 3.3 MRR-Physical Basics)

**LWC - Liquid Water Content<sup>2)</sup>**

LWC is the liquid water content (see equation 3.2.1 MRR-Physical Basics)

*<sup>2)</sup> In case of low signal to noise ratio negative values can occur. Although they have no physical meaning they are retained in order to avoid statistical biases.*

**W - Fall Velocity**

W is the characteristic falling velocity.

(First Moment of the Doppler spectrum, see chapter 3.4 MRR-Physical Basics).

The width of velocity-bins can be derived from the maximum number of height steps, the sampling rate (as shown in the header line) and the wave length of the RADAR signal. 32 height steps and 64 lines per step are calculated. For a sampling frequency of 125 kHz and a transmit frequency of 24.15 GHz, the resolution of the fall velocity can be calculated as:

$$\frac{125 \text{ kHz}}{2} \frac{1}{32 \cdot 64} \frac{299700 \text{ km/s}}{2 \cdot 24 \text{ GHz}} = 0.1905 \text{ m/s}$$



6.3.2 Example

Instantaneous and averaged data files have the same structure except of the header lines. The part of the header line, which is underlined in the example below, is only present in averaged data:

Table with 20 columns: MRR, 70, 105, 140, SFT, 60, UTC, AVE, 35, AST, 0, SWE, 125e3, NE0, 1, 000, NE1, 0, 000, SWS, 5, 20, DWS, 5, 10, DSN, 020704, CC, 2066000, M00, 100, 655, 700, 735, 770, 805, 840, 875, 910, 945, 980, 1015, 1050, 1085. The table contains numerical data for various radar parameters.



N34	15543	19429	18430	15880	15100	16759	15610	13544	13375	14668	16884	18871	18722	18590	19172	17529	20454	20027	17849	17282	15318	15391	16430	23729	35545	46676	43087	31116	15240	4622.4	1196.3	
N35	11074	14746	13021	11318	11080	11857	10535	9071.8	9153.5	10891	12100	13423	13959	13631	13374	12554	14989	14600	13282	13155	11733	13308	14872	18890	24295	28910	25386	16667	7517.4	1769.8	372.01	
N36	8063.7	10718	8927.8	7966.0	7954.2	8413.8	7584.7	6429.2	6668.3	7912.6	8156.4	8572.4	8241.6	9262.2	9187.0	8380.0	9491.1	9687.6	9774.1	9585.0	8641.0	10461	12281	14376	15828	15629	12579	7542.3	3299.7	699.22	127.95	
N37	5579.9	7232.0	5896.5	5342.4	5529.4	6050.6	5548.5	4679.9	4724.6	5237.0	5312.6	5556.1	5978.6	5945.9	6001.2	5351.7	5813.2	6361.6	6982.7	6806.1	6566.6	7816.2	8969.7	9791.1	10116	8644.9	5594.9	2947.6	1201.5	236.46	50.288	
N38	3660.6	4631.9	3782.0	3554.0	3882.1	4301.2	3788.2	3094.7	3073.3	3388.5	3572.4	3826.3	4115.9	3848.7	3753.9	3401.1	3693.0	4212.3	4742.4	4694.6	4822.6	5578.4	6223.4	6570.3	6224.6	4805.3	2510.5	1149.9	428.02	73.016	40.260	
N39	2451.6	3052.0	2462.6	2454.8	2701.9	2879.9	2516.2	1986.3	1970.7	2224.8	2389.8	2510.6	2621.3	2340.3	2308.5	2145.4	2363.8	2776.2	3040.2	2991.0	3206.6	3590.5	4066.8	4184.1	3400.7	2300.2	1089.4	447.38	153.45	23.465	45.138	
N40	5819.3	1324.6	6783.6	9297.6	1069.6	1628.0	1857.5	2260.1	2391.2	2584.2	2857.1	3456.4	3450.1	3466.9	3063.8	2531.0	3195.0	4142.7	4524.8	4376.1	4167.6	5094.7	5737.5	6487.5	7234.7	1631.6	342.15	124.4	66.03	51.901	6.600	15.100
N41	5919.3	1324.6	6783.6	9297.6	1069.6	1628.0	1857.5	2260.1	2391.2	2584.2	2857.1	3456.4	3450.1	3466.9	3063.8	2531.0	3195.0	4142.7	4524.8	4376.1	4167.6	5094.7	5737.5	6487.5	7234.7	1631.6	342.15	124.4	66.03	51.901	6.600	15.100
N42	559.59	801.97	590.94	560.59	570.14	570.07	443.00	478.44	513.44	509.34	483.11	472.63	466.78	408.14	449.80	443.00	503.02	542.48	648.21	783.12	839.78	829.53	748.08	508.35	280.57	132.16	51.57	21.089	5.726	1.2082	41.131	
N43	311.72	452.26	341.63	311.89	298.49	296.60	243.05	266.12	315.43	285.84	267.08	259.91	236.88	207.13	222.80	211.03	240.93	268.09	351.68	453.51	472.69	455.83	358.53	206.85	103.39	45.136	16.576	5.5499	1.1879	0.1858	1.2911	32.235
N44	169.68	239.35	178.44	164.85	152.13	148.30	137.29	172.38	192.97	159.46	138.54	126.42	111.82	93.173	92.717	91.467	109.10	127.54	181.40	233.85	246.11	239.27	169.73	76.829	36.747	15.236	5.1847	1.0163	0.1858	1.2911	32.235	
N45	81.786	121.41	84.666	81.660	79.681	78.907	77.345	103.17	113.45	92.542	68.828	57.519	50.597	37.522	33.149	36.609	47.387	54.895	82.849	112.99	119.13	115.14	76.344	28.340	11.652	4.4790	1.2523	0.1501	0.1087	1.4566	27.688	
N46	34.401	57.447	38.938	39.926	41.450	43.409	45.297	54.883	60.493	52.144	33.413	25.366	20.018	12.808	11.334	13.548	17.845	20.532	31.125	48.112	29.404	9.4621	3.2046	1.0200	0.1508	0.1471	0.2992	1.2458	21.402			
N47	14.599	25.105	17.415	18.311	18.017	21.264	26.064	29.209	30.549	26.836	16.089	11.018	7.6411	4.1295	3.6462	5.7951	6.7475	5.6561	16.130	19.956	17.000	9.3864	2.6096	0.7768	0.0214	0.0118	0.3312	0.8860	14.571			
N48	6.0655	10.083	6.7792	6.7683	6.5345	9.1416	12.917	15.288	15.165	12.710	7.4520	4.6330	3.0609	1.3419	1.6967	1.8734	2.5597	4.3964	6.1000	4.8768	2.2767	0.5247	0.0722	0.0227	9.6e-4	0.0267	0.2702	0.6419	8.2911			
N49	2.5061	3.6136	2.2706	1.9711	2.0213	3.5677	5.5743	7.8399	7.7926	5.9892	3.3414	1.7142	0.9998	0.3713	0.1577	0.3096	0.3850	0.3988	0.6132	1.0605	1.1634	0.4705	0.1001	0.0409	0.0489	0.0142	0.0276	0.2706	0.4230	4.0321		
NS0															0.0510	0.0522	0.0533	0.1282	0.2087	0.3256	0.2438	0.10316	0.0116	0.0055	0.610	0.528	0.565	0.610	0.667	0.743	0.933	
PR1	0.000	0.028	0.054	0.076	0.097	0.120	0.143	0.162	0.182	0.204	0.226	0.248	0.270	0.292	0.315	0.334	0.354	0.374	0.395	0.414	0.433	0.453	0.475	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	
Z	32.52	33.54	32.65	32.07	31.98	32.17	31.91	31.51	31.60	31.57	31.22	31.08	30.90	30.59	30.51	30.04	30.24	30.28	30.36	30.40	30.31	30.37	30.39	30.55	30.90	31.57	32.08	32.73	33.37	33.36	33.33	
Z	32.52	33.56	32.69	32.14	32.07	32.29	32.05	31.67	31.77	31.43	31.32	31.16	30.87	30.65	30.37	30.59	30.65	30.65	30.75	30.82	30.75	30.83	30.87	31.06	31.44	32.15	32.69	33.40	34.18	34.10	34.18	34.25
RR	2.93	3.25	3.09	2.58	2.52	2.71	2.69	2.31	2.41	2.68	2.69	2.72	2.74	2.79	2.81	2.49	2.47	2.42	2.41	2.30	2.24	2.35	2.62	3.00	3.46	4.53	5.96	8.08	12.16	16.29	20.79	
LWC	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.31	0.40	0.50	0.76	1.07	1.49	
W	6.57	6.73	6.57	6.66	6.68	6.81	6.84	6.95	6.90	6.72	6.57	6.51	6.53	6.42	6.45	6.48	6.58	6.68	6.83	6.99	7.09	7.10	7.00	6.77	6.50	6.20	5.88	5.53	5.11	4.61	4.16	

## 6.4 Raw data

---

### 6.4.1 Format Description

Each data block in a **raw data** file begins with a header line which contains the date, the time and the time zone of the following data block. This line is preceded by the letter T and a colon (T means time). The format of the date/time stamp is YYMMDDhhmmss, which means year, month, day, hour, minute and second with 2 digits each. Date, time and time zone are separated by a space character. The header line is supplemented with the version number of the MRR firmware (following the identifier DVS), the serial number ( of the MRR (following the identifier DSN), the calibration constant of the MRR (following the identifier CC) and the percentage of valid spectra (following the identifier MDQ).

The next data lines contains the measuring heights. It begins with the capital letter M, a colon, the small letter h, two space characters, and an equals sign (M means measured value, h means height). The following numbers (9 digits decimal each) represent the measuring heights in meters.

The height line is followed by the line of the transfer function. It starts with the capital character M, a colon, the capital letters T and F and one space character. The rest of that line represents the values of the transfer function for each height step ( 9 digits decimal each).

The line of the transfer function is followed by 64 data lines. Each one starts with the capital character M, a colon, the small letter f, and a 2-digit number of the spectra line (0 to 63). The rest of these lines represent the received spectral signal power in engineering units for each height step (9 digits decimal each).

The raw spectra include the receiver noise floor.

6.4.2 Example

Table with columns for radar parameters (RPT, DWS, SLD, DMR, DZDR, CC, ZORANGE, RHO, LHO) and rows for various radar channels (MRR150-1, MRR150-2, ..., MRR150-63). Each row contains a long string of numerical values representing radar data points.