



# **AS-5216-DLL**

**Interface Package for 32 bit Windows Applications**

**Version 1.4.0.0**

**USER'S MANUAL  
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## 0 Installation

AS-5216-DLL is a 32-bit driver interface package and can be installed under the following operating systems:

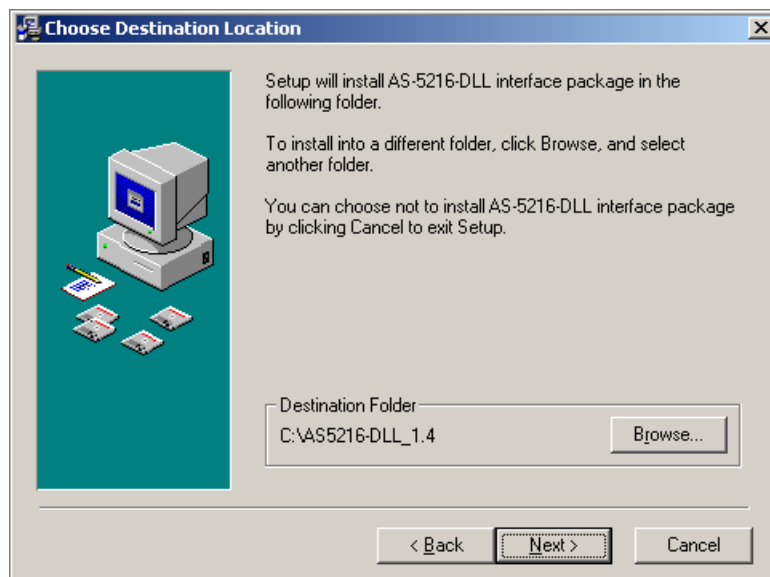
- Windows 95/98/Me
- Windows NT/2000/XP/Vista

The installation program can be started by running the file “setup.exe” from the CD-ROM.

### Installation Dialogs

The setup program will check the system configuration of the computer. If no problems are detected, the first dialog is the “Welcome” dialog with some general information.

In the next dialog, the destination directory for the AS5216-DLL software can be changed. The default destination directory is C:\AS5216-DLL\_1.4. If you want to install the software to a different directory, click the Browse button, select a new directory and click OK. If the specified directory does not exist, it will be created.

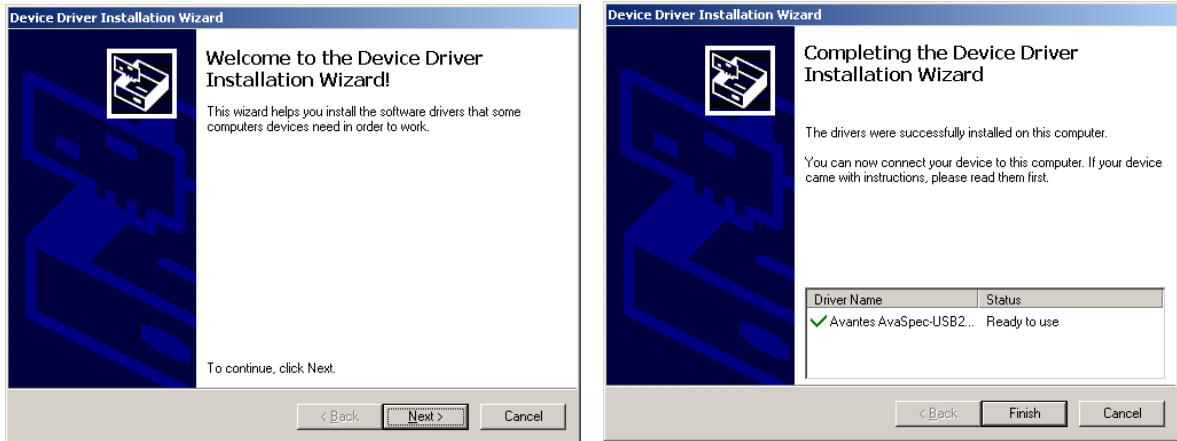


This installation is password protected. Enter the following password to proceed with the installation:

Avantes6961LL4a



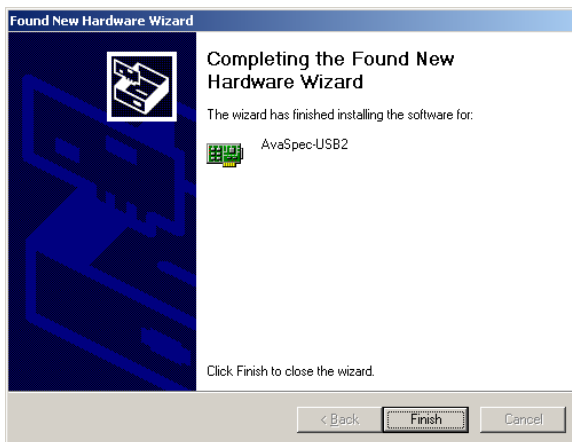
During this installation, the installation program will check if the most recent USB driver has been installed already at the PC. If no driver is found, or if the driver needs to be upgraded, the Device Driver Installation Wizard is launched automatically, click Next. If the Operating System is Windows Vista, it will display a message that it can't verify the publisher of the driver software, select "Install this driver software anyway".



After the drivers have been installed successfully, the dialog at the right is displayed, click Finish. After all files have been installed, the "Installation Complete" dialog shows up. Click Finish.

### Connecting the hardware

Connect the USB connector to a USB port on your computer with the supplied USB cable. Windows XP will display the "Found New Hardware" dialog. Select the (default) option to install the software automatically, and click next. After the Hardware Wizard has completed, the following dialog is displayed under Windows XP:



Click Finish to complete the installation.

Please note that if the spectrometer is Connected to another USB port to which it has not been connected before, the "Found New Hardware Wizard" will need to install the software for this port as well. For this reason, this Wizard will run "NrOfChannel" times for a multichannel AvaSpec-USB2 spectrometer system. This happens because inside the housing, the USB ports for each spectrometer channel are connected to a USB-Hub.

Windows Vista will install the driver automatically, without displaying the "Found New Hardware Wizard" dialogs.

### Launching the software

This AS-5216-DLL manual and several example programs can be started from the Windows Start Menu. The source code of the example programs can be found in the Examples folder.



## 1 Version History

This section will be used to describe the new features in the as5216.dll, compared to the previous versions.

### 1.1 New in version 1.4.0.0

- Implementation of the StoreToRam function, which allows the storing of scans at high speed (as fast as 1.1 msec per scan for the AvaSpec-2048-USB2, and 0.1 msec per scan for the AvaSpec-102-USB2) in the spectrometer, without the overhead of USB communication. About 4MB of storage is available, which allows for 1013 full spectra with the AvaSpec-2048-USB2 and 19784 for the AvaSpec-102-USB2, or a lot more if the pixelrange is reduced by selecting the start- and stoppixel. StoreToRam requires firmware version 0.20 or later. A firmware upgrade utility can be downloaded from our website.
- Implementation of directory support for the Secure Digital Card.
- In a few occasions there have been problems with detecting and/or activating AvaSpec-USB2 spectrometers under Windows Vista. The reason for this is that, according to MicroSoft, “a USB device takes a long time to resume from selective suspend mode on a Windows Vista-based computer that uses UHCI (Universal Host Controller Interface) USB controllers. In the as5216.dll version 1.4, a workaround has been implemented to solve this problem.
- New sample programs for Visual C++ 2005, Delphi and LabView
  - o The Visual C++ 2005 sample program has been created in the Express version.
  - o A few sample programs in Delphi have been added: besides the comprehensive sample program that was already available in earlier as5216.dll versions, 3 new sample programs have been added:
    - A multichannel sample program in which up to 16 spectrometer channels can run simultaneously in SYNC mode or ASYNC mode.
    - An sdcard sample program which demonstrates how to save spectra to an onboard sdcard
    - A simple program with only a few lines of code which demonstrates the basic data acquisition for a single channel AvaSpec-USB2 spectrometer.
  - o The LabView sample programs have been updated to LabView version 8.2 (earlier versions can be obtained on request). There are 4 sample programs:
    - a comprehensive program for a single channel AvaSpec-USB2, which also includes subvi's for all functions in the as5216.dll
    - a program that illustrates the use of Windows Messaging in LabView.
    - a simple sample program that uses AVS\_PollScan instead of Windows Messaging
    - a multichannel example program which illustrates how to run multiple spectrometer channels (fixed to 2 channels in the example program) in SYNC mode, as well as ASYNC mode.
- In this manual, examples have been added for using the function AVS\_UseHighResAdc in combination with nonlinearity correction and/or irradiance calibration, see section 3.6.1 under “Using the nonlinearity correction polynomial in combination with the 16bit ADC Counts range” and section 3.6.3 under “How to convert ScopeData (A/D Counts) to a power distribution [ $\mu\text{Watt}/(\text{cm}^2.\text{nm})$ ]”.





## 1.2 New in version 1.3.0.0

- Windows Vista support
- New Sample programs in Visual C# and Visual Basic.NET 2001. These sample programs can also be used in more recent .NET versions (2005) in which case the Visual Studio Conversion Wizard will convert the project to the new version. Note that for Visual Basic .NET, there was already a VB .NET 2005 sample program available.
- ProcessControl Structure added for standalone functionality (see section 3.6.6)
- Stability issues solved. Some spectrometer types (mainly the AvaSpec-102-USB2) have shown a lock up in continuous measurements over a long period at short integration time. Another problem that showed up very rarely, concerns multichannel spectrometers running in synchronization mode. Both problems have been solved in as5216.dll version 1.3.
- Support for the AvaSpec-2048x14 High UV-sensitivity back-thinned CCD Spectrometer. The new detector type used in this spectrometer is the HAMS9840 and is supported in as5216.dll version 1.3 and all the sample programs.
- The new function AVS\_UseHighResAdc has been added to enable the full 16-bit ADC range which is available with a 16-bit ADC on the as5216 board as of revision 1D. See also section 2.3.36.
- A minor bug in the smoothing routine has been solved.
- The sample program in Visual Basic 6.0 has been modified because it crashed after running continuously for a number of hours. The cause was found to be in the VB6 "Timer" function that was used to show some statistics about the measurement speed. By eliminating the Timer function from the sample program, this problem was solved. Feedback from VB6 programmers who know how to use the Timer function (or an equivalent) without crashing the application is appreciated.

## 1.3 New in version 1.2.0.0

Visual Basic 6.0 developers may have noticed that the programs developed with as5216.dll v.1.1 or earlier and Visual Basic 6.0 are stable, but the Visual Basic 6.0 Integrated Development Environment (IDE) was not. Running the program from the VB6 IDE, caused the IDE to close down without saving any changes, as soon as the program was closed. To solve this problem, a special as5216.dll version (1.2.0.1) has been created which can be used in the VB6 IDE to develop and debug your programs. AS5216.dll version 1.2.0.1 will be installed in the VB6 example folder, as well as a readme.txt file with recommendations for redistributing programs developed with Visual Basic 6.0.

Furthermore, a parameter structure has been added to the EEPROM to control the TEC cooling for the NIR spectrometer (AvaSpec-256-NIR2.2). More detailed information about this TEC Control structure can be found in section 3.6.5.

The last change in version 1.2 is only in this manual. For spectrometers that have been calibrated for irradiance measurements, the IrradianceType structure contains data that can be used to convert the ScopeData (A/D Counts) to an irradiance spectrum. Section 3.6.3 in this manual describes more in detail how this can be done.

## 1.4 New in version 1.1.0.0

The as5216.dll version 1.1 includes one new function (AVS\_SetPrescanMode) which can be used for the AvaSpec-3648 spectrometer. Furthermore, a lower and upper limit has been added to the nonlinearity polynomial to avoid incorrect correction for very low and/or high counts. Finally, example programs with source in LabView (7.1), Visual C++ (6.0), Visual Basic (6.0) and Visual Basic .NET 2005 (2.0) have been added to the already existing examples in Delphi (6.0) and Borland



C++ (5.0). The AVS\_SetPrescanMode function for the AvaSpec-3648 is described in section 2.3.35, and detailed information about how to apply the nonlinearity correction can be found in section 3.6.1

## 1.5 New in version 1.0.0.0: as5216.dll versus as161.dll

Although there is no previous version for as5216.dll v1.0, a comparison can be made for programmers who have used the as161.dll to write application software for the USB1 platform AvaSpec spectrometers.

A number of improvements have been implemented in the as5216.dll when comparing the functions to the as161.dll. These improvements can be grouped into the following categories:

- Data acquisition
- Synchronization in multichannel systems
- Laser control and integration time delay, e.g. for Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy
- USB2 platform spectrometer

These categories will be described in sections 1.5.1 to 1.5.4

### 1.5.1 Data acquisition

Just like with the as161.dll, a spectrum can be collected by calling the function AVS\_Measure, and when a scan has been sent to the PC, it can be retrieved with the function AVS\_GetScopeData. The following improvements have been realized in as5216.dll for the USB2 platform spectrometers:

1. **Starting a measurement.** In continuous mode, the USB1 platform spectrometers always run continuously, also if no measurement requests are posted. A call to AVS\_Measure in as161.dll results in returning the first available scan (see section 2.2 of the as161.dll manual). The USB2 platform spectrometers are in idle mode if not scanning, and will start a scan if a measurement request (AVS\_Measure) from the as5216.dll is received.
2. **Number of measurements.** The AVS\_Measure function in as161.dll always results in one single scan. A spectrum is only sent to the PC if a measurement request is received. The AVS\_Measure function in as5216.dll includes a “nrms” argument which specifies the number of measurements the spectrometer should perform after one measurement request.
3. **Stopping a measurement.** A measurement in as161.dll cannot be interrupted. After a measurement request, the application must wait for the response before changing measurement parameters or sending other commands to the spectrometer. The as5216.dll includes a function AVS\_StopMeasure that can be called to interrupt a measurement request.
4. **Spectrometer not blocked while measurement is pending.** With the USB1 platform spectrometers, the spectrometer is blocked for receiving commands as long as a measurement is pending. A measurement is pending between the call to AVS\_Measure and the DATA\_READY message from the as161.dll to the application. The USB2 platform spectrometers are not blocked from receiving commands while a measurement is pending. This means that you can e.g. control the digital and analog IO ports while a measurement is pending.
5. **Measurement parameters.** There are a lot of parameters involved that determine the result of a scan such as integration time, number of averages, smoothing, pixelselection, dark correction etc... In the as161.dll, a lot of different functions are used to set these parameters: integration time and averaging are set in AVS\_Measure, smoothing in AVS\_SetSmoothing, Pixelselection in AVS\_SetPixelSelection, etc... The as5216.dll uses a measurement structure which includes all measurement parameters and uses only one function (AVS\_PrepareMeasure) to send these parameters to the spectrometer.



6. **External Trigger.** The only setting in the as161.dll for external trigger functionality is to switch this mode on or off by calling the function AVS\_SetExternalTrigger. In external trigger mode, the USB1 platform spectrometer will start one single scan on the rising edge of the TTL pulse that is sent to the external trigger input port of the spectrometer. In the as5216.dll, the USB2 platform spectrometer can be set into external trigger mode by setting the trigger mode parameter into hardware trigger mode. If the trigger type parameter is set to “EDGE”, the number of measurements to perform after receiving one TTL pulse can be specified by setting the nrms parameter in the AVS\_Measure function. If the trigger type parameter is set to “LEVEL”, the spectrometer will keep scanning as long as the TTL input signal is HIGH, and when the signal becomes LOW, it will return the average scan over all scans that were performed during the HIGH time period.
7. **Integration time.** The integration time in the as161.dll can be set with a 1 ms resolution. In the as5216.dll, a 0.01 ms (10  $\mu$ s) resolution is used for the integration time.
8. **Timestamp.** The AVS\_GetScopeData function in as5216.dll includes a timestamp in 10  $\mu$ s resolution ticks generated by the microcontroller, which can be used to measure the time between two consecutive (and processed) scans very accurately.

### 1.5.2 Synchronization in Multichannel systems

There is a major difference between the USB1 and USB2 platform multichannel systems. The USB1 platform multichannel systems always needs the same detectortype for each channel. Also, the integration time and number of averages in a measurement request is equal for all channels.

With the multiple usb support in the as161.dll (v.1.5 and later), spectrometers with different detectors and at different integration time or average can run simultaneously, but in that case there is no synchronization between these spectrometers.

With the USB2 platform multichannel systems, the advantage of the multiple USB implementation (up to 127 spectrometers, possibility of using different detectors, integration time and averaging per channel) has been combined with the advantage of the as161 multichannel systems (synchronization). All USB2 platform spectrometers can be connected by a SYNC cable. In syncmode, one spectrometer is configured as “Master”, all other (“slave”) spectrometers are set into “Trigger by SYNC” mode. After a measurement request for the slave spectrometer(s), these spectrometers will wait until they receive the trigger signal on the SYNC cable. This SYNC signal will be started if a measurement request is posted for the Master spectrometer.

### 1.5.3 Laser control and integration time delay, e.g. for LIBS

If the AvaSpec-2048FT (USB1 platform) is set in external hardware trigger mode, an external trigger pulse results in an output signal (pulse width 15  $\mu$ s) at pin2 of the DB15 connector (DO2), about 1.3  $\mu$ s after the trigger pulse was received. The pulse at DO2 can be used to fire a laser in a LIBS application. The function AVS\_SetIntegrationDelay can be used to specify an integration time delay, which is related to DO2.

With the AvaSpec-2048-USB2 and AvaSpec-3648-USB2, this feature has been improved at the following points:

1. **Not limited to external trigger mode.** The output signal and integration delay can be generated in external trigger mode, but also in “normal” (software trigger) mode.
2. **Multiple measurements.** The number of measurements can be set by the nrms parameter, in the AVS\_Measure function.
3. **Pulse width.** The “laserpulse” width at pin 23 of the DB26 connector can be set by the user, between 0 and 1 ms (21 nanosec steps).



4. **Laser Delay.** The 1.3  $\mu$ s period between receiving a trigger (measurement request in software trigger mode or TTL pulse in hardware trigger mode) can be delayed from 1.3 $\mu$ s to 89 sec (21ns steps).

#### 1.5.4 USB2 platform specific functions

The functions that have been added to as5216.dll to support the new hardware features in the USB2 platform spectrometers, can be grouped into the following categories:

- Analog IO
  - Digital IO and Pulse Width Modulation
  - SDCard support
  - Eeprom IO
1. **Analog IO.** The USB2 platform spectrometers have 2 programmable analog output pins and 2 programmable analog input pins available at the DB26 connector. The functions AVS\_SetAnalogOut and AVS\_GetAnalogIn can be used to control these ports. Moreover, a number of onboard analog signals can be retrieved with the AVS\_GetAnalogIn function. One of these onboard signals is an NTC thermistor which can be used for onboard temperature measurements.
  2. **Digital IO and Pulse Width Modulation.** The USB2 platform spectrometers have 10 programmable digital output pins and 3 programmable input pins available at the DB26 connector. The function AVS\_SetDigOut and AVS\_GetDigIn can be used to control these ports. Moreover, 6 out of the 10 programmable output ports can be configured for pulse width modulation. With the AVS\_SetPwmOut function, a frequency and duty cycle can be programmed for these 6 digital output ports
  3. **SDCard support.** If the spectrometer was ordered with an SDxxx card, the function AVS\_SaveSpectraToSDCard can be used to save spectra at the SDCard. To access the files that are saved at the SDCard, the functions AVS\_GetFileSize, AVS\_GetFile, AVS\_GetFirstFile, AVS\_GetNextFile and AVS\_DeleteFile can be used.
  4. **Eeprom IO.** With the USB1 platform spectrometers, it is also possible to read/write a number of parameters from/to Eeprom with the as161.dll, such as start- and stoppixel (AVS\_GetStartStopPixel and AVS\_SetStartStopPixel), wavelength calibration coefficients (AVS\_GetWLCoeff and AVS\_SetWLCoeff), gain (AVS\_GetGain and AVS\_SetGain) and offset (AVS\_GetOffset and AVS\_SetOffset). The Eeprom for the USB2 spectrometers has a lot more memory available to store all kind of parameters. These parameters have been defined in the DeviceConfigType structure (see section 2.4). The functions AVS\_GetParameter and AVS\_SetParameter in as5216.dll can be used to read/write the DeviceConfigType structure from/to Eeprom.



## 2 AS-5216-DLL description

### 2.1 Interface overview

The interface from the PC to the DLL is based on a function interface. The interface allows the application to configure a spectrometer and to receive and send data from and to the spectrometer.

### 2.2 Usage AS-5216-DLL

The DLL uses a single pair of open and close functions (AVS\_Init() and AVS\_Done()) that have to be called by an application. As long as the open function is not yet called or not successfully called, all other functions will return an error code.

The open function (AVS\_Init()) tries to open a communication port for all connected devices. The close function (AVS\_Done()) closes the communication port(s) and releases all internal data storage.

The interface between the application and the DLL can be divided in four functional groups:

- internal data read functions, which read device configuration data from the internal DLL storage.
- blocking control functions which send a request to the device and wait till an answer is received or a time-out occurs before returning control to the application
- non-blocking data read functions, which send a request to the device and then return control to the application. After the answer from the device is received, or a timeout occurs a notification is sent to the application
- data send functions which send device configuration data to the device

After the application has initialised it should select the spectrometer(s) it wants to use. Therefore, the following steps have to be taken:

1. Call AVS\_GetNrOfDevices to determine the number of attached devices
2. Allocate buffer to store identity info (RequiredSize = NrDevices \* sizeof(AvsIdentityType))
3. Call AVS\_GetList with the RequiredSize and obtain the list of connected spectrometers
4. Select the spectrometers you want to use with AVS\_Activate
5. Register a notification window handle with AVS\_Register to detect device attachment/removal



## 2.3 Exported functions

### 2.3.1 AVS\_Init

**Function:** `int AVS_Init`

```
(  
short a_Port  
)
```

Group: Blocking control function

Description: Opens the communication with the spectrometer and initialises internal data structures

Parameters: `a_Port`: id. of port to be used:  
-1: use auto-detect of USB or COM port  
0: use USB port  
1: use COM1 port  
2: use COM2 port  
3: use COM3 port  
4: use COM4 port  
etc....

Return: On success, number of connected device  
On error, `ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND`

### 2.3.2 AVS\_Done

**Function:** `int AVS_Done`

```
(  
Void  
)
```

Group: Blocking control function

Description: Closes the communication and releases internal storage.

Parameters: None

Return: `SUCCESS`

### 2.3.3 AVS\_GetNrOfDevices

**Function:** `int AVS_GetNrOfDevices`

```
(  
void  
)
```

Group: Blocking control function

Description: Internally checks the list of connected devices and returns the number of devices currently attached.

Parameters: None

Return: `> 0`: number of devices in the list  
`0`: no devices found



### 2.3.4 AVS\_GetList

**Function:** **int AVS\_GetList**  
(  
    unsigned int           a\_ListSize,  
    unsigned int\*         a\_pRequiredSize,  
    AvsIdentityType\*     a\_pList  
)  
**Group:** Blocking control function  
**Description:** Returns device information for each spectrometer connected to the ports indicated at AVS\_Init.  
**Parameters:** a\_ListSize:           number of bytes allocated by the caller to store the list data  
                a\_pRequiredSize:   number of bytes needed to store information  
                a\_pList:            pointer to allocated buffer to store identity information  
**Return:**     > 0:                number of devices in the list  
                0:                no devices found  
                ERROR\_INVALID\_SIZE if (a\_pRequiredSize > a\_ListSize) then allocate larger buffer  
                                    and retry operation

### 2.3.5 AVS\_Activate

**Function:** **AvsHandle AVS\_Activate**  
(  
    AvsIdentityType\*    a\_pDeviceId  
)  
**Group:** Blocking control function  
**Description:** Activates selected spectrometer for communication and reads device configuration data from Eeprom.  
**Parameters:** On success:           AvsHandle, handle to be used in subsequent function calls  
**Return:**     On error:            INVALID\_AVS\_HANDLE\_VALUE

### 2.3.6 AVS\_Deactivate

**Function:** **bool AVS\_Deactivate**  
(  
    AvsHandle     a\_hDeviceId  
)  
**Group:** Blocking control function  
**Description:** Closes communication with selected spectrometer.  
**Parameters:** a\_hDeviceId:   device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
**Return:**     true:            device successfully closed  
                false:         device identifier not found



### 2.3.7 AVS\_Register

**Function:** **bool AVS\_Register**  
(  
    HWND        a\_hWnd  
)  
**Group:** Blocking control function  
**Description:** Installs an application windows handle to which device attachment/removal messages have to be sent  
**Parameters:** a\_hWnd: Application window handle  
**Return:** true: Registration successful  
          false: registration failed or function not supported on OS

### 2.3.8 AVS\_PrepareMeasure

**Function:** **int AVS\_PrepareMeasure**  
(  
    AvsHandle        a\_hDevice,  
    MeasConfigType\*  a\_pMeasConfig  
)  
**Group:** Blocking data write function  
**Description:** Prepares measurement on the spectrometer using the specified measurement configuration.  
**Parameters:** a\_hDevice: Device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
              a\_pMeasConfig: pointer to structure containing measurement configuration  
**Return:** On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
          On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
                  ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
                  ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER  
                  ERR\_INVALID\_PIXEL\_RANGE  
                  ERR\_INVALID\_CONFIGURATION (invalid fpga type)  
                  ERR\_TIMEOUT

### 2.3.9 AVS\_Measure

**Function:** **int AVS\_Measure**  
(  
    AvsHandle        a\_hDevice,  
    HWND             a\_hWnd,  
    short            a\_Nmsr  
)  
**Group:** Non-Blocking data write function  
**Description:** Starts measurement on the spectrometer  
**Parameters:** a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate





	a_hWnd	window handle to notify application measurement result data is available. The DLL sends a message to the window with command WM_MEAS_READY, with SUCCESS or INVALID_MEAS_DATA as WPARAM value and a_hDevice as LPARAM value.
	a_Nmsr	number of measurements to do after one single call to AVS_Measure (-1 is infinite)
Return:	On success:	ERR_SUCCESS
	On error:	ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER ERR_INVALID_STATE (measurement already pending)

### 2.3.10 AVS\_GetLambda

**Function:** int AVS\_GetLambda

```
(  
    AvsHandle    a_hDevice,  
    double*     a_pWavelength  
)
```

Group: Internal data read function

Description: Returns the wavelength values corresponding to the pixels if available. This information is stored in the DLL during the AVS\_Activate() procedure.  
The DLL does not test if a\_pWaveLength is correctly allocated by the caller!

Parameters: a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pWaveLength: array of double, with array size equal to number of pixels

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID

### 2.3.11 AVS\_GetNumPixels

Function: int AVS\_GetNumPixels

```
(  
    AvsHandle    a_hDevice,  
    unsigned short* a_pNumPixels  
)
```

Group: Internal data read function

Description: Returns the number of pixels of a spectrometer. This information is stored in the DLL during the AVS\_Activate() procedure.

Parameters: a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pNumPixels: pointer to unsigned integer to store number of pixels

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID



### 2.3.12 AVS\_GetParameter

**Function:** **int AVS\_GetParameter**

```
(  
    AvsHandle          a_hDevice,  
    unsigned int       a_Size,  
    unsigned int*      a_pRequiredSize,  
    DeviceConfigType* a_pData  
)
```

Group: Internal data read function.

Description: Returns the device information of the spectrometer. This information is stored in the DLL during the AVS\_Activate() procedure.

Parameters: a\_hDevice, device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_Size, number of bytes allocated by caller to store DeviceConfigType  
a\_pRequiredSize, number of bytes needed to store DeviceConfigType  
a\_pData pointer to buffer that will be filled with the spectrometer configuration data

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_INVALID\_SIZE (a\_Size is smaller than required size)

### 2.3.13 AVS\_PollScan

**Function:** **int AVS\_PollScan**

```
(  
    AvsHandle          a_hDevice  
)
```

Group: Internal data read function

Description: Determines if new measurement results are available

Parameters: a\_hDevice:: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate

Return: On success: 0: no data available  
1: data available  
>1: When using the StoreToRam function, the return value signals the number of scans available for retrieval.  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID

### 2.3.14 AVS\_GetScopeData

**Function:** **int AVS\_GetScopeData**

```
(  
    AvsHandle          a_hDevice,  
    unsigned int*      a_pTimeLabel,  
    double*            a_pSpectrum  
)
```

Group: Internal data read function,

Description: Returns the pixel values of the last performed measurement. Should be called by the application after the notification on AVS\_Measure is triggered.  
The DLL does not check the allocated buffer size!



Parameters: a\_hDevice, device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pTimeLabel, ticks count last pixel of spectrum is received by microcontroller ticks  
in 10  $\mu$ S units since spectrometer started  
a\_pSpectrum array of doubles, size equal to the selected pixelrange  
Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_INVALID\_MEAS\_DATA (no measurement data received)

### 2.3.15 AVS\_GetSaturatedPixels

**Function:** int AVS\_GetSaturatedPixels  
(  
AvsHandle a\_hDevice,  
unsigned char\* a\_pSaturated  
)  
Group: Internal data read function.  
Description: Returns for each pixel if that pixel was saturated (1) or not (0).  
Parameters: a\_hDevice device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pSaturated array of chars (each char indicates if saturation occurred for  
corresponding pixel), size equal to the selected pixelrange  
Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_INVALID\_MEAS\_DATA (no measurement data received)  
ERR\_OPERATION\_NOT\_SUPPORTED  
ERR\_OPERATION\_NOT\_ENABLED

### 2.3.16 AVS\_GetAnalogIn

**Function:** int AVS\_GetAnalogIn  
(  
AvsHandle a\_hDevice,  
unsigned char a\_AnalogInId,  
float\* a\_pAnalogIn  
)  
Group: Blocking control function.  
Description: Returns the status of the specified analog input  
Parameters: a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_AnalogInId identifier of analog input  
0 = thermistor on optical bench (NIR2.2)  
1 = 1V2  
2 = 5VIO  
3 = 5VUSB  
4 = AI2 = pin 18 at 26-pins connector  
5 = AI1 = pin 9 at 26-pins connector  
6 = NTC1 onboard thermistor  
7 = Not used



Return: a\_pAnalogIn: pointer to float for analog input value [Volts]  
On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER (invalid analog input id.)  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)

### 2.3.17 AVS\_GetDigIn

**Function:** int AVS\_GetDigIn

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  unsigned char  a_DigInId,  
  unsigned char* a_pDigIn  
)
```

Group: Blocking control function.

Description: Returns the status of the specified digital input

Parameters: a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_DigInId: identifier of digital input (1 – 3)  
0 = DI1 = Pin 24 at 26-pins connector  
1 = DI2 = Pin 7 at 26-pins connector  
2 = DI3 = Pin 16 at 26-pins connector

Return: a\_pDigIn: pointer to digital input status (0 – 1)  
On success: ERR\_SUCCESS, a\_pDigIn contains valid value  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER (invalid digital input id.)  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)

### 2.3.18 AVS\_GetVersionInfo

**Function:** int AVS\_GetVersionInfo

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  unsigned char* a_pFPGAVersion,  
  unsigned char* a_pFirmwareVersion,  
  unsigned char* a_pDLLVersion  
)
```

Group: Blocking read function

Description: Returns the status of the software version of the different parts. DLL does not check the size of the buffers allocated by the caller.

Parameters: a\_hDevice, device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pFPGAVersion, pointer to buffer to store FPGA software version (16 char.)  
a\_pFirmwareVersion pointer to buffer to store Microcontroller software version (16 char.)

a\_pDLLVersion pointer to buffer to store DLL software version (16 char.)  
Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS, buffer contains valid value



On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)

### 2.3.19 AVS\_GetFileSize

**Function:** int AVS\_GetFileSize

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  unsigned char* a_pName,  
  unsigned int*  a_pSize  
)
```

Group: Blocking read function

Description: Returns the file size in bytes if the file can be read from the SD card

Parameters: a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pName: file name (14 characters including terminating zero)  
a\_pSize: pointer to buffer to store length

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS, buffer contains valid value  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER, no SD card present or file not found

### 2.3.20 AVS\_GetFile

**Function:** int AVS\_GetFile

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  unsigned char* a_pName,  
  unsigned char  a_pDest,  
  unsigned int   a_pSize  
)
```

Group: Blocking read function

Description: Returns the contents of a binary file from the SD card

Parameters: a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_pName: file name (14 characters including terminating zero)  
a\_pDest: pointer to buffer to store binary file data  
a\_pSize: length of buffer (expected file size, as determined with  
AVS\_GetFileSize, max. length is 64kB)

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS, buffer contains valid value  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER, no SD card present or file not found



### 2.3.21 AVS\_GetFirstFile

**Function:** `int AVS_GetFirstFile`  
(  
    AvsHandle        a\_hDevice,  
    unsigned char\*  a\_pName  
)  
Group:            Blocking read function  
Description:      Returns the name of the first file in the root directory of the SD card  
Parameters:       a\_hDevice,        device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
                  a\_pName         file name (14 characters including terminating zero)  
Return:           On success:       ERR\_SUCCESS, buffer contains valid value  
                  On error:        ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
                                    ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
                                    ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
                                    ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER, no SD card present or file not found

### 2.3.22 AVS\_GetNextFile

**Function:** `int AVS_GetNextFile`  
(  
    AvsHandle        a\_hDevice,  
    unsigned char\*   a\_pPrevName,  
    unsigned char\*   a\_pNextName  
)  
Group:            Blocking read function  
Description:      Returns the name of the next file in root directory after a\_pPrevName  
Parameters:       a\_hDevice        device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
                  a\_pPrevName     file name (14 characters including terminating zero), this is the name  
                                    returned by AVS\_GetFirstFile() or by the previous call to  
                                    AVS\_GetNextFile()  
                  a\_pNextName     file name (14 characters including terminating zero)  
Return:           On success:       ERR\_SUCCESS, buffer contains valid value  
                  On error:        ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
                                    ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
                                    ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
                                    ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER, no SD card present or no more files  
                                    on the SD card



### 2.3.23 AVS\_DeleteFile

**Function:** `int AVS_DeleteFile`  
(  
    AvsHandle            a\_hDevice,  
    unsigned char\*      a\_pName  
)  
**Group:**            Blocking read function  
**Description:**    Deletes a file from the SD card  
**Parameters:**    a\_hDevice            device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
                  a\_pName            file name (14 characters including terminating zero)  
**Return:**        On success:        ERR\_SUCCESS  
                  On error:        ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
                                  ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER, no SD card present or no more  
                                  files on the SD card

### 2.3.24 AVS\_GetFirstDirectory

**Function:** `int AVS_GetFirstDirectory`  
(  
    AvsHandle            a\_hDevice,  
    unsigned char\*      a\_pName  
)  
**Group:**            Blocking read function  
**Description:**    Returns the name of the directory in the root directory of the SD card  
**Parameters:**    a\_hDevice            device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate (-1 for first active  
                                  device)  
                  a\_pName:            directory name (14 characters including terminating zero)  
**Return:**        On success:        ERR\_SUCCESS (a\_pName buffer contains valid info)  
                  On error:        ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND (communication not open yet)  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID (device handle is not known in  
                                  DLL)  
                                  ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER, no SD card present or no  
                                  directory found on the SD card

### 2.3.25 AVS\_GetNextDirectory

**Function:** `int AVS_GetNextDirectory`  
(  
    AvsHandle            a\_hDevice,  
    unsigned char\*      a\_pPrevName,  
    unsigned char\*      a\_pNextName  
)  
**Group:**            Blocking read function  
**Description:**    Returns the name of the next directory in the root directory after a\_pPrevName  
**Parameters:**    a\_hDevice            device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate (-1 for first active device)



**Return:**

a_pPrevName	directory name (14 characters including terminating zero), this is the name returned by AVS_GetFirstDirectory() or by the previous call to AVS_GetNextDirectory()
a_pNextName	directory name (14 characters including terminating zero)
On success:	ERR_SUCCESS, a_pNextName contains valid value
On error:	ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND (communication not open yet) ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID (device handle is not known in DLL) ERR_TIMEOUT (error in communication) ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER, no SD card present or no more directories on the SD card

### 2.3.26 AVS\_DeleteDirectory

**Function:** **int AVS\_DeleteDirectory**

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  unsigned char* a_pName  
)
```

**Group:** Blocking read function

**Description:** Deletes a directory from the SD card

**Parameters:** a\_hDevice device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate (-1 for first active device)

**Return:**

a_pName	directory name (14 characters including terminating zero)
On success:	ERR_SUCCESS
On error:	ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND (communication not open yet) ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID (device handle is not known in DLL) ERR_TIMEOUT (error in communication) ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER, no SD card present or no more directories on the SD card

### 2.3.27 AVS\_SetDirectory

**Function:** **int AVS\_SetDirectory**

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  char           a_aFileRootName[6]  
)
```

**Group:** Blocking data send function

**Description:** Sets current working directory. All file-functions will act on this directory.

**Parameters:** a\_hDevice device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate (-1 for first active device)

a\_aFileRootName string that sets the current working directory for all file-based functions

**Return:**

On success:	ERR_SUCCESS
On error:	ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND (communication not open yet) ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID (device handle is not known in DLL) ERR_TIMEOUT (error in communication) ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER, no SD card present





### 2.3.28 AVS\_SaveSpectraToSDCard

**Function:** **int AVS\_SaveSpectraToSDCard**

```
(  
  AvsHandle      a_hDevice,  
  bool           a_Enable,  
  unsigned char  a_SpectrumType,  
  char           a_aFileRootName[6],  
  TimeStampType a_TimeStamp  
)
```

**Group:** Blocking data send function.

**Description:** Enables/disables writing spectra to file (if disabled the other parameters are neglected)

**Parameters:**

a_hDevice	device identifier returned by AVS_Activate
a_Enable	enable/disable storage of spectra to SD card
a_SpectrumType	0 = Dark Spectrum 1 = Reference Spectrum 2 = Normal Spectrum
a_aFileRootName[6]	The spectrumtype determines the file extension (drk, ref or roh) string that is used as first part of the name of the stored spectra
a_TimeStamp	file time and date that will be used when the spectra are stored

**Return:**

On success:	ERR_SUCCESS
On error:	ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID ERR_TIMEOUT (error in communication) ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER ERR_OPERATION_NOT_SUPPORTED (SD Card not present)



### 2.3.29 AVS\_SetParameter

**Function:** `int AVS_SetParameter`  
(  
    AvsHandle            a\_hDevice,  
    DeviceConfigType\* a\_pData  
)  
**Group:** Blocking data send function.  
**Description:** Overwrites the device configuration data internally and in the spectrometer. The data is not checked.  
**Parameters:** a\_hDevice,            device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
                a\_pData            pointer to a DeviceConfigType structure  
**Return:**     On success:        ERR\_SUCCESS  
                On error:         ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
                                  ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
                                  ERR\_OPERATION\_PENDING  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_STATE (measurement pending)

### 2.3.30 AVS\_SetAnalogOut

**Function:** `int AVS_SetAnalogOut`  
(  
    AvsHandle            a\_hDevice,  
    unsigned char        a\_PortId,  
    float                a\_Value  
)  
**Group:** Blocking data send function  
**Description:** Sets the analog output value for the specified analog output  
**Parameters:** a\_hDevice        device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
                a\_PortId,        identifier for one of the two output signals:  
                                  0 = AO1 = pin 17 at 26-pins connector  
                                  1 = AO2 = pin 26 at 26-pins connector  
                a\_Value         DAC value to be set in Volts (internally an 8-bits DAC is used)  
                                  with range 0 – 5.0V  
**Return:**     On success:        ERR\_SUCCESS  
                On error:         ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
                                  ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
                                  ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER

### 2.3.31 AVS\_SetDigOut

**Function:** `int AVS_SetDigOut`  
(  
    AvsHandle            a\_hDevice  
    unsigned char        a\_PortId,  
    unsigned char        a\_Value  
)



Group: Blocking data send function.

Description: Sets the digital output value for the specified digital output

Parameters: a\_hDevice device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_PortId: identifier for one of the 10 output signals:  
0 = DO1 = pin 11 at 26-pins connector  
1 = DO2 = pin 2 at 26-pins connector  
2 = DO3 = pin 20 at 26-pins connector  
3 = DO4 = pin 12 at 26-pins connector  
4 = DO5 = pin 3 at 26-pins connector  
5 = DO6 = pin 21 at 26-pins connector  
6 = DO7 = pin 13 at 26-pins connector  
7 = DO8 = pin 4 at 26-pins connector  
8 = DO9 = pin 22 at 26-pins connector  
9 = DO10 = pin 25 at 26-pins connector

a\_Value: value to be set (0-1)

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER

### 2.3.32 AVS\_SetPwmOut

**Function:** int AVS\_SetPwmOut

```
(  
    AvsHandle    a_hDevice,  
    unsigned char a_PortId,  
    unsigned long a_Frequency,  
    unsigned char a_DutyCycle  
)
```

Group: Blocking data send function.

Description: Selects the PWM functionality for the specified digital output

Parameters: a\_hDevice, device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_PortId identifier for one of the 6 PWM output signals:  
0 = DO1 = pin 11 at 26-pins connector  
1 = DO2 = pin 2 at 26-pins connector  
2 = DO3 = pin 20 at 26-pins connector  
4 = DO5 = pin 3 at 26-pins connector  
5 = DO6 = pin 21 at 26-pins connector  
6 = DO7 = pin 13 at 26-pins connector

a\_Frequency desired PWM frequency (500 – 300000) [Hz], the frequency of outputs 0, 1 and 2 is the same (the last specified frequency is used), also the frequency of outputs 4, 5 and 6 is the same

a\_DutyCycle percentage high time in one cycle (0 – 100), channels 0, 1 and 2 have a synchronised rising edge, the same holds for channels 4, 5 and 6

Return: On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_DEVICE\_NOT\_FOUND  
ERR\_INVALID\_DEVICE\_ID  
ERR\_TIMEOUT (error in communication)  
ERR\_INVALID\_PARAMETER



### 2.3.33 AVS\_SetSyncMode

**Function:** `int AVS_SetSyncMode`

```
(  
  AvsHandle  a_hDevice,  
  unsigned char  a_Enable  
)
```

Group: Internal DLL write function

Description: Disables/enables support for synchronous measurement. DLL takes care of dividing Nmsr request into Nmsr number of single measurement requests.

**Note: this function should only be called for the master spectrometer!**

Parameters: `a_hDevice` master device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
`a_Enable` 0 is disable sync mode, 1 is enables sync mode

Return: On success: `ERR_SUCCESS`  
On error: `ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND`  
`ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID`

### 2.3.34 AVS\_StopMeasure

**Function:** `int AVS_StopMeasure`

```
(  
  AvsHandle  a_hDevice  
)
```

Group: Blocking data send function

Description: Stops the measurements (needed if Nmsr = infinite), can also be used to stop a pending measurement with long integrationtime and/or high number of averages

Parameters: `a_hDevice`: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate

Return: On success: `ERR_SUCCESS`  
On error: `ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND`  
`ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID`  
`ERR_TIMEOUT` (error in communication)  
`ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER`



### 2.3.35 AVS\_SetPrescanMode

**Function:** `int AVS_SetPrescanMode`

```
(  
  AvsHandle  a_hDevice  
  bool       a_Prescan  
)
```

**Group:** Blocking data send function

**Description:** If `a_Prescan` is set, the first measurement result will be skipped. This function is only useful for the AvaSpec-3648 because this detector can be operated in prescan mode, or clearbuffer mode (see below)

**Parameters:** `a_hDevice`: device identifier returned by `AVS_Activate`  
`a_Prescan`: If true, the first measurement result will be skipped (prescan mode), else the detector will be cleared before each new scan (clearbuffer mode)

**Return:** On success: `ERR_SUCCESS`  
On error: `ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND`  
`ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID`  
`ERR_TIMEOUT` (error in communication)

The Toshiba detector in the AvaSpec-3648, can be used in 2 different control modes:

#### **The Prescan mode (default mode).**

In this mode the Toshiba detector will automatically generate an additional prescan for every request from the PC, the first scan contains non-linear data and will be rejected, the 2<sup>nd</sup> scan contains linear data and will be sent to the PC. This prescan mode is default and should be used in most applications, like with averaging (only one prescan is generated for a nr of averages), with the use of an AvaLight-XE (one or more flashes per scan) and with multichannel spectrometers. The advantage of this mode is a very stable and linear spectrum. The disadvantage of this mode is that a minor (<5%) image of the previous scan (ghostspectrum) is included in the signal. This mode cannot be used for fast external trigger and accurate timing, since the start of the scan is always delayed with the integration time (min. 3.7 ms).

#### **The Clear-Buffer mode.**

In this mode the Toshiba detector buffer will be cleared, before a scan is taken. This clear-buffer mode should be used when timing is important, like with fast external triggering. The advantage of this mode is that a scan will start at the time of an external trigger, the disadvantage of this mode is that after clearing the buffer, the detector will have a minor threshold, in which small signals (<500 counts) will not appear and with different integration times the detector is not linear.



### 2.3.36 AVS\_UseHighResAdc

**Function:** `int AVS_UseHighResAdc`  
(  
    AvsHandle a\_hDevice  
    bool a\_Enable  
)

**Group:** Internal DLL write function

**Description:** With the as5216 electronic board revision 1D and later, a 16bit resolution AD Converter is used instead of a 14bit in earlier hardware versions. As a result, the ADC Counts scale can be set to the full 16 bit (0..65535) Counts. For compatibility reasons with previous hardware revisions, the default range is set to 14 bit (0..16383.75) ADC Counts.

**Remark:** When using the 16 bit ADC in full High Resolution mode (0..65535), please note that the irradiance intensity calibration, as well as the nonlinearity calibration are based on the 14bit ADC range. Therefore, if using the nonlinearity correction or irradiance calibration in your own

**Parameters:** a\_hDevice: device identifier returned by AVS\_Activate  
a\_Enable: True: use 16bit resolution, ADC Counts range 0..65535  
False: use 14bit resolution ADC Counts range 0..16383.75

**Return:** On success: ERR\_SUCCESS  
On error: ERR\_OPERATION\_NOT\_SUPPORTED: this function is not supported by as5216 hardware version R1C or earlier



## 2.4 Data Elements

Several data-types used by the DLL and necessary for the application interface are given below.

**Note:** To match the structures that are used in the AS5216 firmware the structures mentioned here have to be compiled with *byte alignment*.

Table 1 API data elements

Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
bool	8 bits value	0 – 1	false - true
char	8 bits value	-128 <= x <= 127	signed character
unsigned char	8 bits value	0 <= x <= 255	unsigned character
short	16 bits value	-32768 <= x <= 32767	signed integer
unsigned short	16 bits value	0 <= x <= 65535	unsigned integer
int	32 bits value	2,147,483,648 <= x <= 2,147,483,647	signed integer
unsigned int	32 bits value	0 <= x <= 4294967295	unsigned integer
float	32 bits value		floating point number (7 digits precision)
double	64 bits value		double sized floating point number (15 digits precision)
HWND	32 bits value		Windows typedef for window identification, HWND is used for Windows API calls that require a Window handle.
AvsIdentity Type	<pre> struct { char          m_aSerialId[10], char          m_aUserFriendlyId[64], DeviceStatus m_Status } </pre>		serial identification number user friendly name to be defined by application device status



Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
ControlSettings Type	struct { unsigned short        m_StrobeControl,  unsigned int          m_LaserDelay, unsigned int          m_LaserWidth,  float                  m_LaserWaveLength unsigned short        m_StoreToRam,  }  }	0 – 0xFFFF  0 – 0xFFFFFFFF 0 – 0xFFFF   0 – 0xFFFF	number of strobe pulses during integration period (high time of pulse is 1 ms), ( 0 = no strobe pulses) laser delay since trigger, unit is internal FPGA clock cycle laser pulse width , unit is internal FPGA clock cycle (0 = no laser pulse) Peak wavelength of laser (nm), used for Raman Spectroscopy 0 = no storage to RAM > 0 = number of spectra to be stored  (Size = 16 bytes)
DarkCorrection Type	struct { unsigned char        m_Enable, unsigned char        m_ForgetPercentage  }  }	0 – 1 0 - 100	disable – enable dynamic dark correction (sensor dependent) percentage of the new dark value pixels that has to be used. e.g., a percentage of 100 means only new dark values are used. A percentage of 10 means that 10 percent of the new dark values is used and 90 percent of the old values is used for drift correction (Size = 2 bytes)





Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
DeviceConfig Type	struct { unsigned short        m_Len, unsigned short        m_ConfigVersion, char                    m_aUserFriendlyId[64] DetectorType         m_Detector, IrradianceType        m_Irradiance, SpectrumCalibrationType m_Reflectance, SpectrumCorrectionType m_SpectrumCorrect, StandaloneType        m_StandAlone, TempSensorType        m_Temperature[3], TecControlType        m_TecControl ProcessControlType    m_ProcessControl unsigned char         m_aReserved[13832] }	0 – 0xFFFF	Configuration data structure:  size of this structure in bytes version of this structure user friendly identification string sensor/detector related parameters intensity calibration parameters reflectance calibration parameters correction parameters stand-alone related parameters (e.g. measure mode, control) calibration parameters of three temperature sensors TecControl parameters ProcessControl parameters makes structure size equal to 63484 bytes (Size = 63484)
DeviceStatus	enum { UNKNOWN, AVAILABLE, IN_USE_BY_APPLICATION, IN_USE_BY_OTHER }	0 1 2 3	initial state device is connected to PC and not in use device is connected to PC and in use by caller device is connected to PC and in use by other application



Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
DetectorType	<pre> struct {   SensorType      m_SensorType,   unsigned short  m_NrPixels,   float           m_aFit[5],   bool            m_NLEnable,   double          m_aNLCorrect[8],   double          m_aLowNLCounts,   double          m_aHighNLCounts,   float           m_Gain[2],    float           m_Reserved,   float           m_Offset[2],    float           m_ExtOffset,   unsigned short  m_DefectivePixels[30], } </pre>	<p>0 – 4096</p> <p>1 – 5.7</p> <p>-0.350 - +0.350</p> <p>0.0 – 2.0</p>	<p>Sensor configuration structure:</p> <p>sensor identification</p> <p>number of pixels of sensor</p> <p>polynomial coefficients needed to determine wavelength</p> <p>enable/disable nonlinearity correction</p> <p>polynomial coefficients needed for non linearity correction</p> <p>lower counts limit for nonlinearity correction</p> <p>higher counts limit for nonlinearity correction</p> <p>gain correction for spectrometer ADC (range is divided in 64 steps)</p> <p>not used</p> <p>offset correction for spectrometer ADC in Volt (range is divided in 512 steps)</p> <p>offset to match the detector output range with the ADC range</p> <p>defective pixel numbers</p> <p>(Size = 188 bytes)</p>
IrradianceType	<pre> struct {   SpectrumCalibrationType m_IntensityCalib,   unsigned char           m_CalibrationType,   unsigned int            m_FiberDiameter, } </pre>		<p>Setting during intensity calibration</p> <p>Bare fiber, diffusor, integrating sphere, ....</p> <p>Fiber diameter during intensity calibration</p> <p>(Size = 16391+1+4 = 16396 bytes)</p>



Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
MeasConfig Type	struct { unsigned short     m_StartPixel, unsigned short     m_StopPixel, float             m_IntegrationTime, unsigned int      m_IntegrationDelay,  unsigned int      m_NrAverages, DarkCorrectionType m_CorDynDark, SmoothingType     m_Smoothing, unsigned char     m_SaturationDetection,  TriggerType        m_Trigger, ControlSettingsType m_Control, }	0-4095 0 – 4095 0.01 – 600000 0 – 0xFFFFFFFF  1 – 0xFFFFFFFF  0 – 2	first pixel to be sent to PC last pixel to be sent to PC integration time in ms integration delay, unit is internal FPGA clock cycle ( 0 = one unit before laser start) number of averages in a single measurement dynamic dark correction parameters smoothing parameters 0 = disabled, 1 = enabled, determines during each measurement if pixels are saturated (ADC value = $2^{14} - 1$ ) 2 = enabled, and also corrects inverted pixels (only Sony) trigger parameters control parameters (Size = 41 bytes)
ProcessControl Type	struct { float             m_AnalogLow[2] float             m_AnalogHigh[2] float             m_DigitalLow[10] float             m_DigitalHigh[10] }		Settings that can be used for the 2 analog and 10 digital output signals at the DB26 connector. The analog settings can be used to define a function output range that should correspond to the 0-5V range of the analog output signals. The digital output settings can be used as lower- and upper thresholds. (Size 96 bytes)
SDCardType	Struct { bool             m_Enable, unsigned char     m_SpectrumType, char             m_aFileRootName[6], TimeStampType     m_TimeStamp }		Settings for SD Card, needed in stand-alone operation  (Size = 12 bytes)



Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
SensorType	unsigned char	0 – 9	0x00 = Reserved 0x01 = Hams8378-256 0x02 = Hams8378-1024 0x03 = ILX554 0x04 = Hams9201 0x05 = Toshiba TCD1304 0x06 = TSL1301 0x07 = TSL1401 0x08 = Hams8378-512 0x09 = Hams9840
Smoothing Type	struct { unsigned short      m_SmoothPix,  unsigned char        m_SmoothModel }	0 – 2048  0	number of neighbour pixels used for smoothing, max. has to be smaller than half the selected pixel range because both the pixels on the left and on the right are used Only one model defined so far (Size = 3 bytes)
Spectrum Calibration Type	struct { SmoothingType      m_Smoothing, float                m_Callnttime, float                m_aCalibConvers[4096] }	0.01 – 600000	smoothing parameter during calibration integration time during calibration (ms) Conversion table from Scopedata to calibrated data (Size = 16391 bytes)
Spectrum Correction Type	struct { float                m_aSpectrumCorrect[4096] }		Correct pixel values, e.g. for PRNU  (Size = 16384 bytes)



Type	Format	Value/Range	Description
Standalone Type	struct { bool                    m_Enable, MeasConfigType        m_Meas, signed short            m_Nmsr, SDCardType             m_SDCard }		(Size = 56 bytes)
TecControl Type	struct { bool                    m_Enable, float                    m_Setpoint, float                    m_aFit[2] }		Tec Control parameters for AvaSpec-256-NIR2.2  Set to True if device supports TE Cooling SetPoint for detector temperature in degr. Celsius DAC polynomial (Size = 13 bytes)
TempSensor Type	struct { float                    m_aFit[5] }		Calibration coefficients temperature sensor  (Size = 20 bytes)
TimeStamp Type	struct { unsigned short         m_Date,  unsigned short         m_Time }		bit 0..4 (day, 0 – 31) bit 5..8 (month, 1 – 12) bit 9..15 (years since 1980, 0 – 119) bit 0..4 (2-second unit, 0 - 30) bit 5..10 (minutes, 0 - 59) bit 11..15(hours, 0 – 23)
TriggerType	struct { unsigned char            m_Mode, unsigned char            m_Source, unsigned char            m_SourceType }	0 – 1 0 – 1 0 – 1	Trigger parameters  mode, (0 = Software, 1 = Hardware) trigger source, (0 = external trigger, 1 = sync input) source type, (0 = edge trigger, 1 = level trigger) (Size = 3 bytes)



### 2.4.1 Return value constants

The following table gives an overview of possible integer return codes:

Return code	Value	Description
SUCCESS	0	Operation succeeded
ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER	-1	Function called with invalid parameter value.
ERR_OPERATION_NOT_SUPPORTED	-2	Fixed strobe not supported for ILX in fast trigger mode
ERR_DEVICE_NOT_FOUND	-3	Opening communication failed or time-out during communication occurred.
ERR_INVALID_DEVICE_ID	-4	AvsHandle is unknown in the DLL
ERR_OPERATION_PENDING	-5	Function is called while result of previous function is not received yet.
ERR_TIMEOUT	-6	No answer received from device
Reserved	-7	
ERR_INVALID_MEAS_DATA	-8	No measurement data is received at the point AVS_GetScopeData is called
ERR_INVALID_SIZE	-9	Allocated buffer size too small
ERR_INVALID_PIXEL_RANGE	-10	Measurement preparation failed because pixel range is invalid
ERR_INVALID_INT_TIME	-11	Measurement preparation failed because integration time is invalid (for selected sensor)
ERR_INVALID_COMBINATION	-12	Measurement preparation failed because of an invalid combination of parameters, e.g. integration time of (600000) and (Navg > 5000)
Reserved	-13	
ERR_NO_MEAS_BUFFER_AVAIL	-14	Measurement preparation failed because no measurement buffers available
ERR_UNKNOWN	-15	Unknown error reason received from spectrometer
ERR_COMMUNICATION	-16	Error in communication occurred
ERR_NO_SPECTRA_IN_RAM	-17	No more spectra available in RAM, all read or measurement not started yet.
ERR_INVALID_DLL_VERSION	-18	DLL version information can not be retrieved
ERR_NO_MEMORY	-19	Memory allocation error in the DLL
ERR_DLL_INITIALISATION	-20	Function called before AVS_Init() is called
ERR_INVALID_STATE	-21	Function failed because AS5216 is in wrong state (e.g AVS_StartMeasurement while measurement is pending)
ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER_NR_PIXEL	-100	NrOfPixel in Device data incorrect
ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER_ADC_GAIN	-101	Gain Setting Out of Range
ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER_ADC_OFFSET	-102	OffSet Setting Out of Range
ERR_INVALID_MEASPARAM_AVG_SAT2	-110	Use of Saturation Detection Level 2 is not



<b>Return code</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
		compatible with the Averaging function
ERR_INVALID_MEASPARAM_AVG_RAM	-111	Use of Averaging is not compatible with the StoreToRam function
ERR_INVALID_MEASPARAM_SYNC_RAM	-112	Use of the Synchronize setting is not compatible with the StoreToRam function
ERR_INVALID_MEASPARAM_LEVEL_RAM	-113	Use of Level Triggering is not compatible with the StoreToRam function
ERR_INVALID_MEASPARAM_SAT2_RAM	-114	Use of Saturation Detection Level 2 Parameter is not compatible with the StoreToRam function
ERR_INVALID_MEASPARAM_FWVER_RAM	-115	The StoreToRam function is only supported with firmware version 0.20.0.0 or later.



## 2.4.2 Windows messages

The following table gives an overview of window messages.

Windows message identifier	WPARAM	LPARAM	Description
WM_MEAS_READY	0 (on success) < 0 (one of the above error reasons) > 0 (in StoreToRAM mode)	device handle	after measurement data is available the DLL sends this message to the application. The command value used is WM_MEAS_READY and is defined as (WM_USER + 1)
WM_DEVICECHANGE	DBT_DEVNODES_CHANGED(7)	0	After device attachment/removal Windows sends this message to the application.





### 3 Example source code

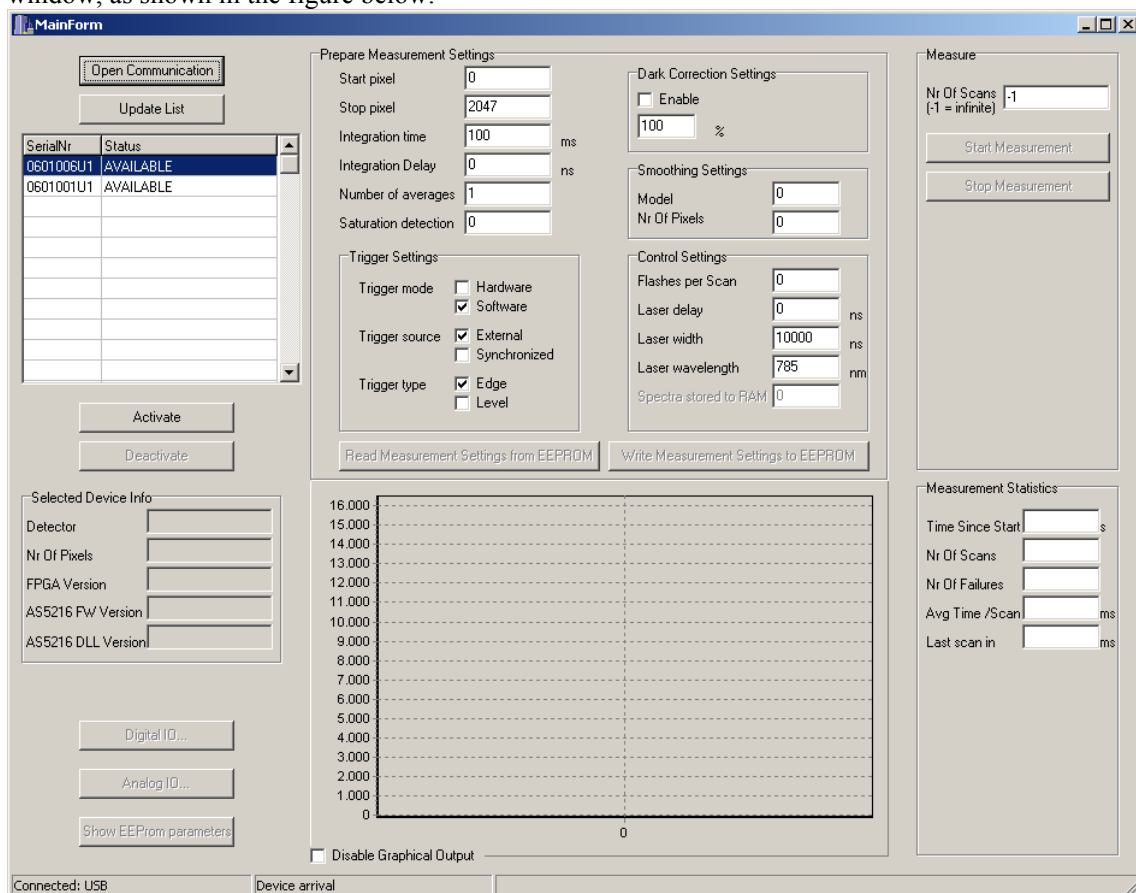
Example source code can be found in the directory tree of the driver.

Sample programs (including header files and link libraries, where appropriate) are provided for the following programming environments:

- Borland Delphi (v. 6.0)
- Borland C++ Builder (v.5.0)
- Microsoft Visual C++ (Visual Studio v.6.0)
- Microsoft Visual C++ (2005)
- Microsoft Visual Basic (Visual Studio v.6.0)
- Microsoft Visual Basic .NET 2005 (v. 2.0)
- Microsoft C# .NET 2005 (v. 2.0)
- National Instruments LabView (v. 8.2, older versions on request)

#### 3.1 Initialization and Activation of a spectrometer

After starting one of the Borland example programs (Borland C++ or Delphi), the main window will be displayed. By clicking the “Open Communication” button, the AVS\_Init function is called and if successful, the serial number and status for the connected spectrometer(s) is collected (AVS\_GetNrOfDevices and AVS\_GetList). The result is displayed in the list at the top left of the window, as shown in the figure below.





After selecting a spectrometer from the list, clicking the “Activate” button results in a call to the AVS\_Activate function. This function returns a DeviceHandle which needs to be used in further communication between the dll and this device. After a successful call to AVS\_Activate, the status for the selected device will change from “AVAILABLE” to “IN\_USE\_BY\_APPLICATION”.

The sample program uses one DeviceHandle, so if you want to run multiple devices simultaneously, you need to allocate storage space for multiple devicehandles.

For the activated device, the Device information is collected (AVS\_GetVersionInfo, AVS\_GetNumPixels, AVS\_GetParameter, AVS\_GetLambda), and displayed in the main window. Thanks to the Windows API OnDeviceChange function, attachment and removal of spectrometers can be detected by the application (see the OnDeviceChange function in the source code).

**Note: To match the structures that are used in the AS5216 firmware the structures used in the as5216.dll should be compiled with *byte alignment***

### 3.2 Starting a measurement

Measurements can be started by clicking the “Start Measurement” button. The Nr of Scans field displays how many scans will be performed after one measurement request. Before a call to AVS\_Measure is done, the AVS\_PrepareMeasurement function is called with the parameters in the MeasConfigType structure. The “Prepare Measurement Settings” group in the figure below shows all the parameters in this MeasConfigType structure:

unsigned short	m_StartPixel
unsigned short	m_StopPixel
float	m_IntegrationTime
unsigned int	m_IntegrationDelay
unsigned int	m_NrAverages
DarkCorrectionType	m_CorDynDark
SmoothingType	m_Smoothing
unsigned char	m_SaturationDetection
TriggerType	m_Trigger
ControlSettingsType	m_Control

The parameters in the measurement structure have been briefly described in section 2.4. In this section a more detailed description will be given.

#### 3.2.1 Measurement structure: Start- and Stoppixel

The start- and stoppixel are the first and last pixel to be sent to the PC. The full range for a spectrometer is between startpixel 0 and stoppixel “NrOfPixels-1”, where NrOfPixels specifies the total pixels available for the detectortype used in the spectrometer (see also AVS\_GetNumPixels). If the wavelength range of a spectrometer exceeds 1100nm (1160nm for the AvaSpec-2048x14) and the detectortype is different from “HAMS9201” (AvaSpec-NIR), the stoppixel can be set to the pixelnumber that corresponds to a wavelength of 1100 (1160) nm, because the sensitivity is almost zero at this wavelength range. Reducing the range increases the data transfer speed and allows you to transfer only the data that is relevant to the application.

Note that if m\_StartPixel is not equal to zero, then a\_pSpectrum[n] (see AVS\_GetScopeData), represents the measured data at pixel number m\_StartPixel +n. Also, pSaturated[n] (see AVS\_GetSaturatedPixels) represents pixel number m\_StartPixel +n. For example, if m\_StartPixel = 10, then a\_pSpectrum[0] represents the measured data at pixel number 10.



### 3.2.2 Measurement structure: Integration Time

The integration time is the exposure time during one scan. The longer the integration time, the more light is exposed to the detector during a single scan, and therefore the higher the signal. The unit is milliseconds [ms], and the resolution 0.01 ms steps. The minimum integration time is detector dependent. The table below shows the values for the different detector types:

Spectrometer	Detector Type	Min. Integration time [ms]
AvaSpec-256-USB2	SENS_HAMS8378_256	0.56
AvaSpec-1024-USB2	SENS_HAMS8378_1024	2.20
AvaSpec-2048-USB2	SENS_ILX554	1.10
AvaSpec-NIR256-USB2	SENS_HAMS9201	0.52
AvaSpec-3648-USB2	SENS_TCD1304	0.01
AvaSpec-102-USB2	SENS_TSL1301	0.06
AvaSpec-128-USB2	SENS_TSL1401	0.06
AvaSpec-2048x14-USB2	SENS_HAMS9840	2.24

The longest integration time is 10 minutes (600000 ms).

### 3.2.3 Measurement structure: Integration Delay

The integration delay parameter can be used to start the integration time not immediately after the measurement request (or on an external hardware trigger), but after a specified delay. The unit for this delay is FPGA clock cycles. The FPGA clock runs at 48 MHz, so the integration delay can be set with 20.83 nanoseconds steps. See also section 3.2.9 about using the integration delay in combination with the control settings: laser delay and pulse width.

### 3.2.4 Measurement structure: Number of Averages

The signal to noise ratio of the scope data is improved by the square root of NrOfAverage. Averaging is done by the microcontroller at the as5216 board, therefore, no time is lost by sending the individual scans from the spectrometer to the PC.

### 3.2.5 Measurement structure: Dynamic Dark Correction

The pixels of the CCD detector (AvaSpec-2048/3648/2048x14) are thermally sensitive, which causes a small dark current, even without light exposure. To get an approximation of this dark current, the signal of the first 14 optical black pixels of the CCD-detector can be taken and subtracted from the raw scope data. This will happen if the correct for dynamic dark option is enabled. As these 14 pixels have the same thermal behaviour as the active pixels, the correction is dynamic.

The Dark Correction Type structure includes an m\_enable and m\_ForgetPercentage field (see also section 2.4). Measurements have shown that taking into account the historical dark scans, does not make much difference. The recommended value for m\_ForgetPercentage is therefore 100.



### 3.2.6 Measurement structure: Smoothing

The smoothing type structure includes a smoothpix and a smoothmodel field. In the current version of the as5216.dll there is just one smoothing model available (0), in which the spectral data is averaged over a number of pixels on the detector array. For example, if the smoothpix parameter is set to 2, the spectral data for all pixels  $x_n$  on the detector array will be averaged with their neighbor pixels  $x_{n-2}$ ,  $x_{n-1}$ ,  $x_{n+1}$  and  $x_{n+2}$ .

The optimal smoothpix parameter depends on the distance between the pixels at the detector array and the light beam that enters the spectrometer. For the AvaSpec-2048, the distance between the pixels on the CCD-array is 14 micron.

With a 200 micron fiber (no slit installed) connected, the optical pixel resolution is about 14.3 CCD-pixels. With a smoothing parameter set to 7, each pixel will be averaged with 7 left and 7 right neighbor pixels. Averaging over 15 pixels with a pitch distance between the CCD pixels of 14 micron will cover  $15 * 14 = 210$  micron at the CCD array. Using a fiber diameter of 200 micron means that we will lose resolution when setting the smoothing parameter to 7. Theoretically the optimal smoothing parameter is therefore 6. The formula is  $((\text{slit size}/\text{pixel size}) - 1)/2$

In the table below, the recommended smoothing values for the AvaSpec spectrometer are listed as function of the light beam that enters the spectrometer. This light beam is the fiber core diameter, or if a smaller slit has been installed in the spectrometer, the slit width. Note that this table shows the optimal smoothing without losing resolution. If resolution is not an important issue, a higher smoothing parameter can be set to decrease noise at the price of less resolution.

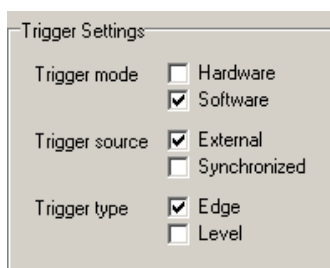
Slit or Fiber	AvaSpec-102 Pixel 77 $\mu\text{m}$	AvaSpec-128 Pixel 63.5 $\mu\text{m}$	AvaSpec-256 AvaSpec-1024 Pixel 25 $\mu\text{m}$	AvaSpec-2048 AvaSpec-2048x14 Pixel 14 $\mu\text{m}$	AvaSpec-3648 Pixel 8 $\mu\text{m}$	AvaSpec-NIR256 Pixel 50 $\mu\text{m}$
10 $\mu\text{m}$	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	n.a.
25 $\mu\text{m}$	n.a.	n.a.	0	0-1	1	n.a.
50 $\mu\text{m}$	0	0	0-1	1-2	2-3	0
100 $\mu\text{m}$	0-1	0-1	1-2	3	5-6	0-1
200 $\mu\text{m}$	1	1	3-4	6-7	12	1-2
400 $\mu\text{m}$	2	2-3	7-8	13-14	24-25	3-4
500 $\mu\text{m}$	3	3-4	9-10	17	31	4-5
600 $\mu\text{m}$	3-4	4	11-12	21	37	5-6

### 3.2.7 Measurement structure: Saturation Detection

The 16-bit A/D converter in the AvaSpec results in raw Scope pixel values between 0 and 65535 counts. If the value of 65535 counts is measured at one or more pixels, then these pixels are called to be saturated or overexposed. Saturation detection can be set off (`m_SaturationDetection=0`) or on (`m_SaturationDetection=1`). Saturation detection is done by the `as5216.dll`, after a measurement result has been sent to the PC. If a measurement is the result of a number of averages, the `as5216.dll` can only detect saturation if all `NrOfAverage` scans in a measurement were saturated for one or more pixels.

Only for AvaSpec-2048 spectrometers, the third level is available (`m_SaturationDetection=2`, autocorrect inverted pixels). The reason for this is that if the detector type in the AvaSpec-2048 (Sony-ILX554) is heavily saturated (at a light intensity of approximately 5 times the intensity at which saturation starts), it will return values  $<65535$  counts. The other detector types in the AvaSpec-102, 128, 256, 1024, 2048x14 and 3648 and AvaSpec-NIR do not show this effect, so no correction is needed. Normally, you don't need to use this third level for the AvaSpec-2048, but when measuring a peaky spectrum with some heavily saturated peaks, the autocorrect can be used. A limitation to this level is that it can be used only if no averaging is used (`m_NrAverages=1`). The AvaSpec-USB2 spectrometers with an `as5216` board Rev C and earlier were equipped with a 14-bit AD converter (range 0..16383). In this case the detector is saturated at 16383 counts.

### 3.2.8 Measurement structure: Trigger Type



The trigger type structure includes settings for Trigger Mode (Hardware, Software), Trigger Source (External, Synchronized) and Trigger type (Edge, Level).

Setting the Trigger Source to Synchronized is relevant if multiple spectrometers need to run synchronised (all spectrometers start a measurement at the same time). This option will be described below under “Running multiple spectrometers Synchronized”.

Single channel spectrometers, or multiple spectrometers in ASYNC mode can operate in one of the three following Trigger settings (Trigger Source should be set to “External”):

#### **Trigger Mode = Software**

This Trigger setting is used when one or more (nrms) measurements should start after a measurement request in the software (`AVS_Measure` call). The Edge/Level is irrelevant because this only applies to an external hardware trigger.

#### **Trigger Mode = Hardware, Edge triggered**

This trigger setting is used when one or more (nrms) measurements should start after an external hardware trigger pulse has been received at pin 6 of the DB26 connector. First a measurement request is posted in the software (`AVS_Measure` call). Then the spectrometer waits until a rising edge of the TTL-input pulse is detected at pin 6 of the DB26 connector before nrms scans are started.

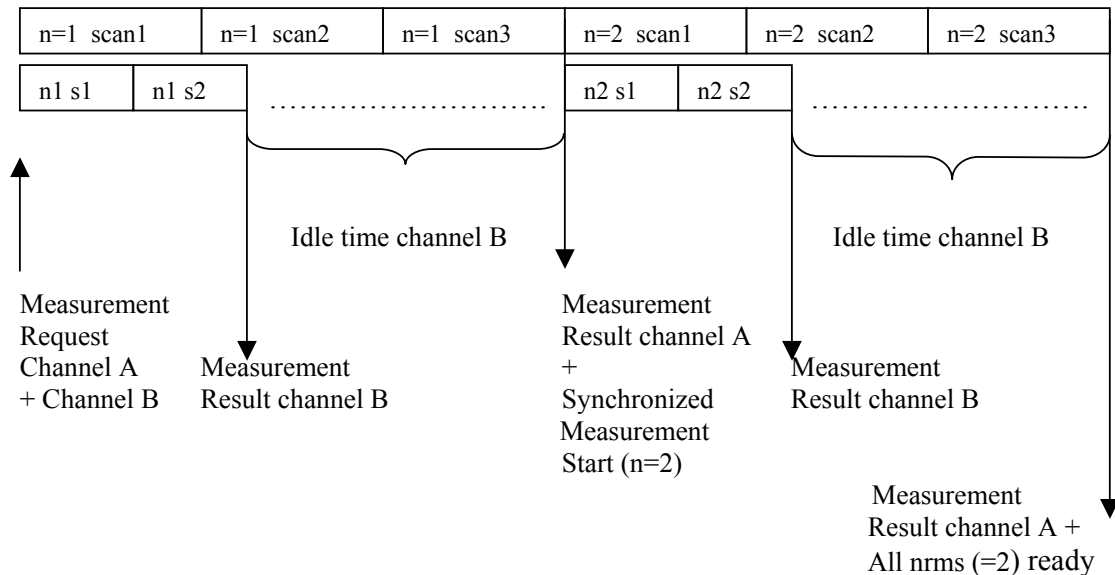


**Trigger Mode = Hardware, Level triggered**

This trigger setting is used when scans should be performed as long as the external trigger at pin 6 of the DB26 connector is HIGH. The spectrometer will start to accumulate data (take scans at the selected integration time) at the rising edge of the TTL pulse and will continue to do so as long as the TTL signal remains high. When the signal becomes low, the average of the accumulated data (except for the last scan) will be sent. This mode is specially useful for conveying belt applications, when a product needs to be scanned, independent of the transport speed.

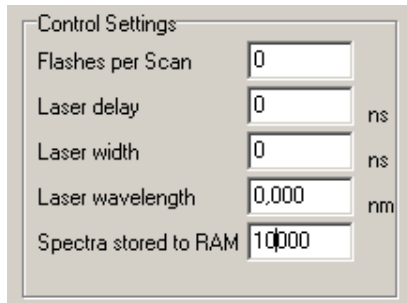
**Running multiple spectrometers Synchronized**

All USB2 platform spectrometers can be connected by a SYNC cable. In syncmode, one spectrometer is configured as “Master” by calling the AVS\_SetSyncMode function for this channel. The trigger source for the Master channel should **not** be set to Synchronized, but to External. The trigger mode for the Master can be set to Software (if a measurement should start after a measurement request in the software), or to Hardware (if a measurement should start after an external hardware trigger pulse at pin 6 of the Master DB26 connector. All other (“slave”) spectrometers are set into “Synchronized” mode by setting the Trigger Source to “Synchronized” and the Trigger Mode to “Hardware”. Do not call the AVS\_SetSyncMode for the Slave spectrometers. A synchronized measurement is started by calling AVS\_Measure first for all slave channels. As a result, these channels start listening to their SYNC input port. Secondly a measurement request (call to AVS\_Measure) needs to be posted for the Master channel. If the trigger mode for the Master is “software”, this result in nrms measurements for all channels. If the trigger mode for the Master is “hardware”, the nrms measurements for all channels are started after an external trigger has been received at at pin 6 of the Master DB26 connector. The nrms parameter in the AVS\_Measure function should be set to the same value for all activated channels. Synchronization is done at a measurement level. A measurement can include a number of scans to average. This “number of average” scans is only synchronized for the first scan. For example, if the number of measurements, integration time and number of average for two channels are set to:  
 Channel A: nrms=2, integration time 100ms, average 3  
 Channel B: nrms=2, integration time 65ms, average 2,  
 then the data acquisition timing and response in synchronized mode will look like:



Note that in the example above, the number of averages for channel B can be set to 4 without losing time because the extra two scans will be taken in the idle time for channel B.

### 3.2.9 Measurement structure: Control Settings



The Control Settings include parameters to control

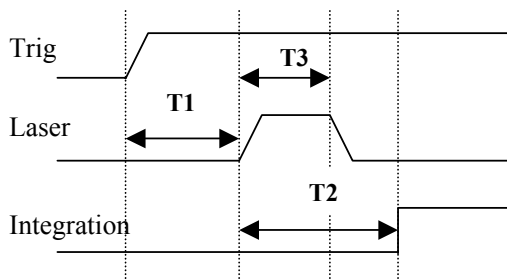
- A pulsed lightsource (m\_StrobeControl)
- A laser pulse (m\_LaserDelay and m\_LaserWidth)
- The Number of Spectra that will be stored to onboard RAM (m\_StoreToRam)

#### Pulsed lightsource control

A pulsed lightsource like the AvaLight-XE needs to be synchronized with the integration time cycle. The m\_StrobeControl parameter determines the number of pulses the spectrometer sends out at pin 5 at the DB26 connector during one integration time cycle. The maximum frequency at which the AvaLight-XE operates is 100 Hz. This means that the minimum integration time for 1 pulse per scan is 10 ms. When setting the number of pulses e.g. to 3, the minimum integration time should be 30 ms. The as5216.dll does not check for this limitation because other light sources may operate at higher frequencies, and should also be controllable by the AvaSpec and as5216.dll.

#### Laser pulse control

Pin 23 at the DB26 connector can be used to send out a TTL signal which is related to the start of the integration time cycle. In the figure below, a measurement is started at the rising edge of the Trig signal. This can be a hardware or software trigger, see also section 3.2.8. The TTL signal at pin 23 (Laser) is set after the laserdelay (T1) expires. The pulsewidth for the laser pulse (T3) is set by the m\_LaserWidth parameter. The integration time cycle starts after the integration delay parameter (see section 3.2.3) expires.



The unit for T1, T2 and T3 is FPGA clock cycles. The FPGA clock runs at 48 MHz, so delays and pulse width can be set with 20.83 nanoseconds steps. If the integration delay T2 is set to 0 FPGA cycles, the rising edge of the integration signal will start one clock cycle (20.83ns) before the rising edge of the laser pulse. This will ensure that with this setting, the flash of the source that is triggered by the laser pulse entirely falls in the integration time cycle.



Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) is an application where the integration delay is used in combination with a TTL-out at the DB-26 connector to fire a laser. After a measurement request (or on an external hardware trigger), the laser is fired by the TTL-out. The integration time period should not include the laser light, so the start of the integration time needs to be delayed. A typical integration delay in LIBS applications is about 1 $\mu$ s.

### **Laser wavelength**

The Laser wavelength (m\_LaserWaveLength) control setting is not used in the current version of as5216. A value can be entered, but the as5216 firmware does not use this information.

### **StoreToRam**

As of firmware version 0.20.0.0 the StoreToRam function has been implemented. To use this function, you must set the requested number of scans in the m\_StoreToRam control setting, and start measuring with a call to AVS\_Measure using 1 as the number of measurements (a\_Nmsr).

There is an amount of 4MB available for scans, corresponding with 1013 scans of 2048 pixels. Scanning less pixels will yield a larger capacity in scans. The AVS\_Measure message signaling the arrival of data will have a WParam value equal to the number of scans stored in RAM. In regular measurements, this value only signals success (with value ERR\_SUCCESS) or failure (with a negative error message).

Alternatively, when using polling instead of a message driven interface, the AVS\_PollScan function will also return the number of available scans. In regular measurements, it will return 1 when data are available, and 0 when they are not.

The scans can subsequently be read with a corresponding number of calls to AVS\_GetScopeData. If you request more scans than will fit in memory, scanning will continue until the memory is fully used, therefore you should always request the number of scans that is returned in WParam or AVS\_PollScan.

The StoreToRam functionality has been implemented in most sample programs that come with the as5216-dll interface package.

### **3.3 Measurement result**

If a measurement is ready, the windows message WM\_MEAS\_READY is sent to the application. The Wparam value of the message should be:

- 0 in regular measurements (where the StoreToRam parameter is zero) to indicate SUCCESS
- > 0 in StoreToRam mode, Wparam holds the number of spectra that were actually saved in RAM
- < 0 in case an error occurred (see section section 2.4.1).

The Lparam value of the message contains the devicehandle for the spectrometer for which the data is ready.

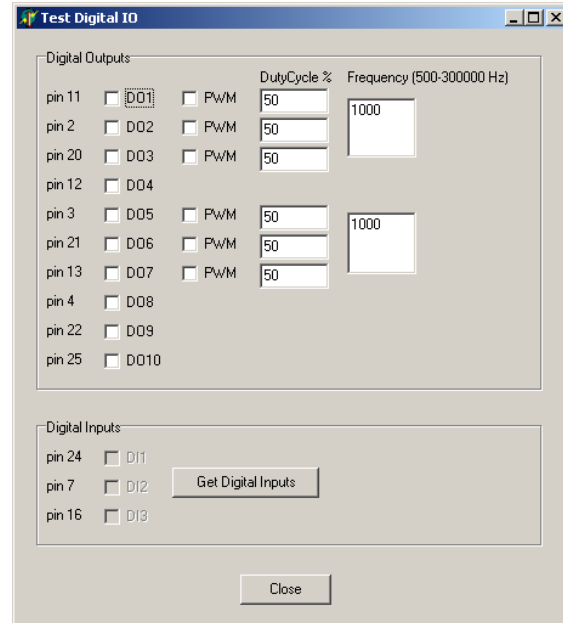
LabVIEW cannot easily respond to the incoming Windows message that signals the arrival of new data. AVS\_Pollscan allows the application program to poll the arrival of data, i.e. to actively get the status of this data, instead of letting a message handler react to the Windows message from the dll. By calling the function AVS\_GetScopeData, the spectral data is stored in the application for further processing.



### 3.4 Digital IO

The USB2 platform spectrometers have 10 programmable digital output pins and 3 programmable input pins available at the DB26 connector. The function AVS\_SetDigOut and AVS\_GetDigIn can be used to control these ports. Moreover, 6 out of the 10 programmable output ports can be configured for pulse width modulation. With the AVS\_SetPwmOut function, a frequency and duty cycle can be programmed for these 6 digital output ports.

The PWM functionality can be used e.g. in controlling the intensity (duty cycle) of an AvaLight-LED lightsource, which receives input from DO1 (pin 11 of the DB26 connector).



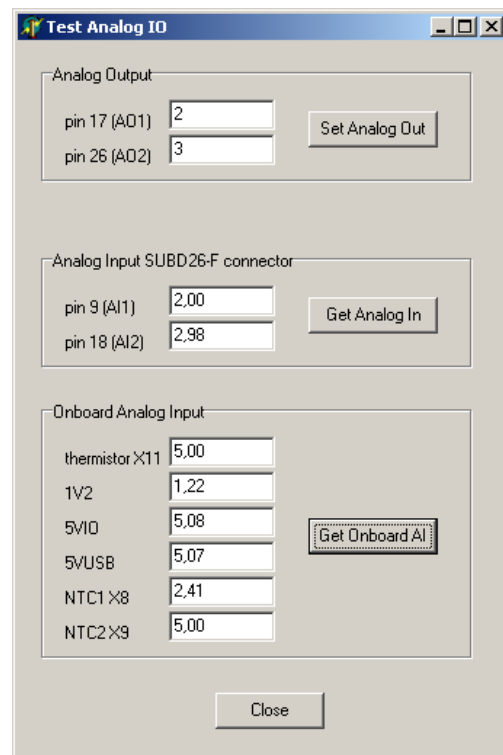
### 3.5 Analog IO

The USB2 platform spectrometers have 2 programmable analog output pins and 2 programmable analog input pins available at the DB26 connector. The functions AVS\_SetAnalogOut and AVS\_GetAnalogIn can be used to control these ports. For the Analog Out signals, an 8-bit DAC is used. The Analog In signals are converted by the internal 10-bit ADC's.

A number of onboard analog signals can be retrieved as well with the AVS\_GetAnalogIn function. One of these onboard signals is the NTC1 X8 thermistor which can be used for onboard temperature measurements. The polynomial for converting the voltage (U) to degrees Celsius for NTC1 is:

$$\text{Temp [}^{\circ}\text{C]} = 118.69 - 70.361 * U + 21.02 * U^2 - 3.6443 * U^3 + 0.1993 * U^4$$

The thermistor X11 is the signal received from the cooled NIR detector and can be used to monitor the detector temperature. NTC2 X9 is not mounted. The 1V2, 5VIO and 5VUSB are used internally to test the power supply

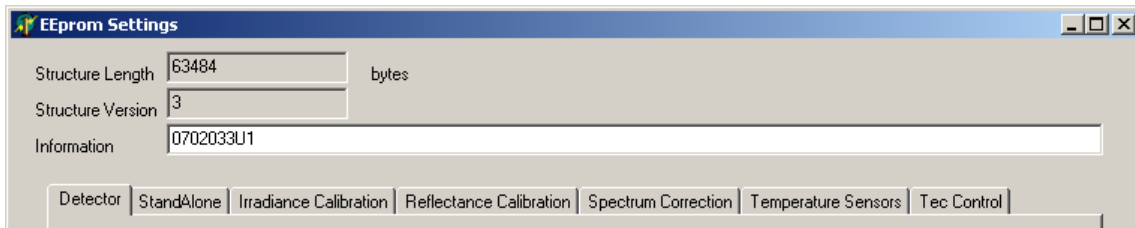




### 3.6 EEPROM

The EEPROM parameters in the DeviceConfigType structure have been briefly described in section 2.4. In this section a more detailed description will be given. The Borland C++ and Delphi sample programs display most of the parameters in the structure. The Structure Length (m\_Len), Structure Version (m\_ConfigVersion) and InfoString (m\_aUserFriendlyId[64]) are shown on top of the tabs that correspond to the structures that are used to group the parameters into the following categories:

DetectorType	m_Detector,
IrradianceType	m_Irradiance,
SpectrumCalibrationType	m_Reflectance,
SpectrumCorrectionType	m_SpectrumCorrect,
StandaloneType	m_StandAlone,
TempSensorType	m_Temperature[3]
TecControlType	m_TecControl
ProcessControlType	m_ProcessControl (not displayed in sample program)

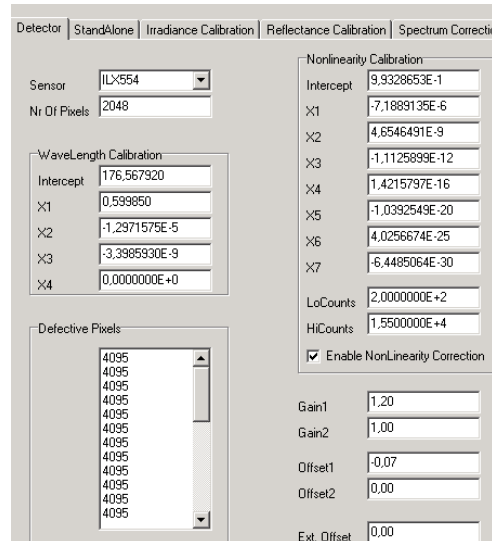


The structure version is used internally to maintain compatibility between different versions of the dll and firmware. The Information character string can be used e.g. to write a user friendly name for the spectrometer.

#### 3.6.1 EEPROM structure: Detector Parameters

The detector parameters are defined in the DetectorType structure, which includes the following elements:

SensorType	m_SensorType
unsigned short	m_NrPixels
float	m_aFit[5]
bool	m_NLEnable
double	m_aNLCorrect[8]
double	m_aLowNLCounts
double	m_aHighNLCounts
float	m_Gain[2]
float	m_Reserved
float	m_Offset[2]
float	m_ExtOffset
unsigned short	m_DefectivePixels[30]





### SensorType and Number of Pixels

The as5216 board supports many different detectors which are used in the AvaSpec spectrometers as shown in the table below:

Spectrometer	DetectorType	Number of Pixels
AvaSpec-256-USB2	SENS_HAMS8378_256	256
AvaSpec-1024-USB2	SENS_HAMS8378_1024	1024
AvaSpec-2048-USB2	SENS_ILX554	2048
AvaSpec-NIR256-USB2	SENS_HAMS9201	256
AvaSpec-3648-USB2	SENS_TCD1304	3648
AvaSpec-102-USB2	SENS_TSL1301	102
AvaSpec-128-USB2	SENS_TSL1401	128
AvaSpec-2048x14-USB2	SENS_HAMS9840	2048

For each detector, different FPGA firmware is needed. The SensorType parameter should therefore not be changed unless new FPGA firmware for another detectortype has been loaded.

The number of pixels is determined by the detectortype and should therefore not be changed, unless another detectortype has been connected and the right FPGA code has been loaded.

### Wavelength Calibration

The polynomial coefficients in `m_aFit[5]` describe the relation between the pixelnumber of the detector array (`0..m_NrPixels-1`) and the corresponding wavelength in nanometer at this pixelnumber:

$$\lambda = m\_aFit[0] + m\_aFit[1] * pixnr + m\_aFit[2] * pixnr^2 + m\_aFit[3] * pixnr^3 + m\_aFit[4] * pixnr^4$$

In the function `AVS_GetLambda`, the `m_aFit` coefficients are used internally to store the wavelength numbers into an array.

### Nonlinearity Calibration and Correction

A polynomial can be used to correct for nonlinear behavior of the detector. The polynomial coefficients can be stored in the EEPROM and used by the application software to correct the raw AD Counts.

The nonlinearity calibration service (determination of the polynomial coefficients) is included in the IRRAD-CAL irradiance calibration service, but can also be ordered separately (NL-Calibration).

New in version 1.1 of the `as5216.dll` are the `m_aLowNLCounts` and `m_aHighNLCounts` parameters. These have been added to be able to limit the range (in counts) for which the correction polynomial should be applied. The correction that needs to be implemented in the application software can be illustrated by using an example:

Suppose the following nonlinearity polynomial has been calculated:

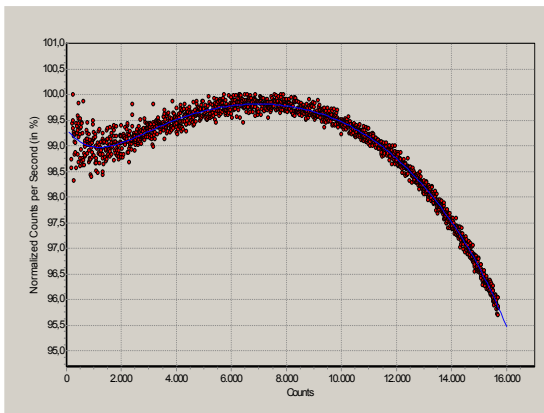
```

m_aNLCorrect[0] = 9.93286529334744E-001
m_aNLCorrect[1] = -7.18891352982627E-006
m_aNLCorrect[2] = 4.65464905353804E-009
m_aNLCorrect[3] = -1.11258994803382E-012
m_aNLCorrect[4] = 1.42157972847117E-016
m_aNLCorrect[5] = -1.03925487491128E-020
m_aNLCorrect[6] = 4.02566735990250E-025
m_aNLCorrect[7] = -6.44850644473040E-030
m_aLowNLCounts = 200.0
m_aHighNLCounts = 15500.0

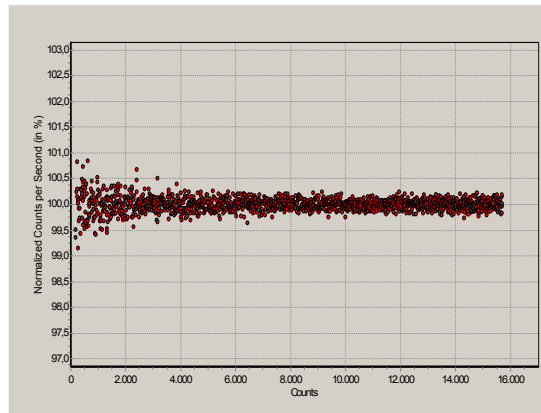
```



The polynomial is calculated by measuring the AD Counts for a number of pixels (10) over different integration times to get the pixel data over a wide range from (in this example) 200 to 15500 counts. The measured AD Counts are corrected for the offset value by subtracting the dark spectrum. For each of the 10 pixels in the measurement the counts per second is calculated and normalized to its maximum value, which is set to 100%. In the left figure below the normalized counts per second are displayed against the measured AD Counts (corrected for dark). The polynomial is the best fit through these measured points. The right figure below has been created by applying the polynomial to the measured points, and recalculating the normalized counts per second. It is important to realize that the polynomial should be applied to the AD Counts that have been corrected for the dark counts.



Before linearization



After linearization

In the application software, a dark spectrum needs to be saved first and subtracted from the measured AD Counts before the correction is applied. For example, suppose the measured AD Counts in the dark for a pixel is a value of 300 Counts. At a certain light intensity, the measured AD Counts for this pixel becomes a value of 14000 Counts. The AD Counts corrected for dark therefore becomes 13700. The Normalized Counts Per Second can be calculated from the polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{NCPS} = & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[0] + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[1] * 13700 + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[2] * 13700^2 + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[3] * 13700^3 + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[4] * 13700^4 + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[5] * 13700^5 + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[6] * 13700^6 + \\
 & m\_aNL\text{Correct}[7] * 13700^7 = 0.97741
 \end{aligned}$$

The AD Counts value corrected for linearity and dark becomes  $13700/0.97741 = 14017$  Counts. The AD Counts value corrected for linearity only (not for dark) becomes  $14017+300 = 14317$  Counts.

Note that the AvaSpec-2048, -2048x14 and -3648 include a “Correct for Dynamic Dark” option (see section 3.2.5). If this correction is applied, the measured dark AD Counts value (without subtracting measured dark counts) is already fluctuating around zero. The polynomial can therefore be applied directly to the measured counts.

The `m_aLowNLCounts` and `m_aHighNLCounts` parameters can be used to limit the range for the correction (in counts) for which the polynomial should be applied. The use of polynomials beyond the range of measured data points can give erratic corrections. In AvaSoft, Avantes uses the same



correction factor (NCPS) for measured counts (corrected for dark) that are lower than `m_aLowNLCounts` as is used for `m_aLowNLCounts`, and for counts higher than `m_aHighNLCounts` the same NCPS as is used for `m_aHighNLCounts`. In the example above, `NCPS[200] = 0.99203` and all counts  $\leq 200$  will be corrected in AvaSoft by dividing through 0.99203. Likewise `NCPS[15500] = 0.96099` and all counts  $\geq 15500$  will be corrected in AvaSoft by dividing through 0.96099. All counts:  $200 < \text{counts} < 15500$  will be corrected by the NCPS calculated by the polynomial.

**Using the nonlinearity correction polynomial in combination with the 16bit ADC Counts range** (see also section 2.3.36, function `AVS_UseHighResAdc`) does require a small modification in your application software, since the polynomial was recorded in 14bit mode, and therefore should be applied to a 14bit range when calculating the NCPS. This will be illustrated by introducing the variable “ADCFactor” to the equations that are used in the correction (same example as above, same polynomial). The value of “ADCFactor” becomes 0.25 when running in 16bit ADC mode and 1.0 when running in 14bit ADC mode.

In 16bit ADC mode, the measured counts will be a factor 4 higher than in 14bit mode, or with a 14 bit ADC. Therefore, the same pixel of the same spectrometer in this example returns  $4 * 300 = 1200$  Counts for darkdata and  $4 * 14000 = 56000$  Counts at a certain light intensity. The AD Counts corrected for dark therefore becomes 54800. The Normalized Counts Per Second can be calculated from the polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NCPS} = & m\_aNLCorrect [0] + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [1] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800) + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [2] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800)^2 + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [3] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800)^3 + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [4] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800)^4 + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [5] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800)^5 + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [6] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800)^6 + \\ & m\_aNLCorrect [7] * (\text{ADCFactor} * 54800)^7 = 0.97741 \end{aligned}$$

The AD Counts value corrected for linearity and dark becomes  $54800 / 0.97741 = 56067$  Counts. The AD Counts value corrected for linearity only (not for dark) becomes  $56067 + 1200 = 57267$  Counts.

Using the `m_aLowNLCounts` and `m_aHighNLCounts` parameters in 16bit mode also requires to include the ADCFactor when comparing the measured Counts to these parameters:

`m_aLowNLCounts = 200`, therefore:

if `ADCFactor * (measured counts (corrected for Dark)) < 200`, use `NCPS[200] = 0.99203`

else if `ADCFactor * (measured counts (corrected for Dark)) > 15500`, use `NCPS[15500] = 0.96099`

else, calculate NCPS as shown above.

In the example above, all counts (corrected for dark)  $\leq 800$  will be corrected in AvaSoft by dividing through 0.99203. Likewise, all counts (corrected for dark)  $\geq 62000$  will be corrected in AvaSoft by dividing through 0.96099. All counts (corrected for dark):  $800 < \text{counts} < 62000$  will be corrected by the NCPS calculated by the polynomial.

### Gain and Offset

These parameters have been optimized by Avantes, and there should be no need to change these values. The `m_Gain` and `m_Offset` parameters are used to optimize the Gain and Offset of the AD Converter. Most spectrometers use only the `m_Gain[0]` and `m_Offset[0]`. Only the NIR2.2 with 2stage TE Cooling uses the `m_Gain[1]` and `m_Offset[1]`.

The `m_ExtOffset` parameter is used to be able to match the detector output range with the ADC range.



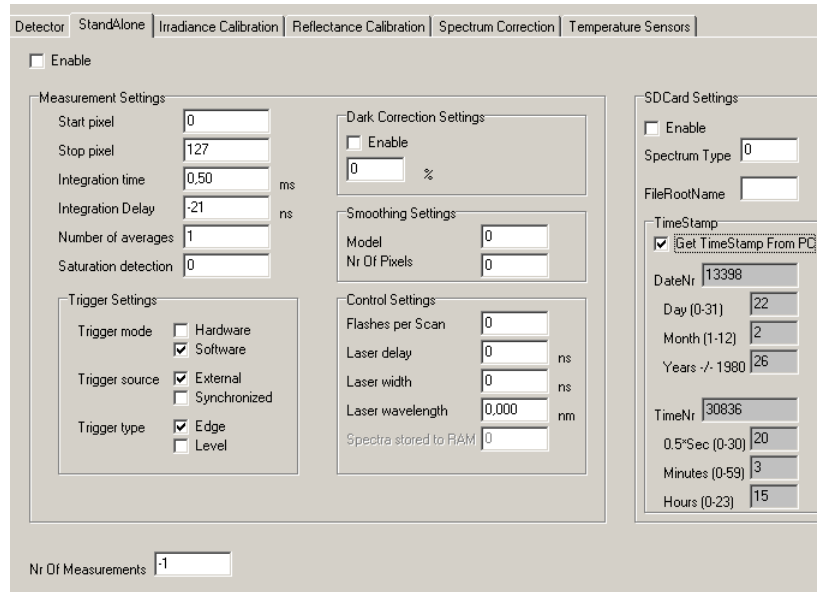
### Defective Pixels

The `m_DefectivePixels[30]` array can be used to store the pixel numbers that should be eliminated from the data transfer. The `as5216.dll` will calculate the data for a defective pixel by interpolating the data of the neighbor pixels. A defective pixel can be specified in the range from 0 to “`NrOfPixels-1`”, where `NrOfPixels` specifies the total pixels available for the detector type used in the spectrometer (see also `AVS_GetNumPixels`).

The `as5216.dll` evaluates the array `m_DefectivePixels[i]` in an increasing order until a pixel is specified which is equal or larger than the number of pixels in the detector.

### 3.6.2 EEPROM structure: Standalone Parameters

The `StandaloneType` structure includes a boolean (**`m_Enable`**) which is not used in the standard version, but which can be used for user specific standalone functionality. The Measurement parameters are also included in this structure, as well as the Number of Measurements parameter (`m_Nmsr`). Finally, the `SDCardType` structure has been added, to have storage space available to store dark and reference and scopemode spectra.



The Measurement parameter structure (**`MeasConfigType`**) has been described in detail in section 3.2, as well as the **Number of Measurements** parameter (`m_Nmsr`).

The **`SDCardType`** structure includes the following parameters:

```
bool          m_Enable
unsigned char m_SpectrumType
char          m_aFileRootName[6]
TimeStampType m_TimeStamp
```

These are the same parameters that have been defined in the function `AVS_SaveSpectraToSDCard`.

The boolean **`m_Enable`** is not used but has been added for possible future standalone functionality to start saving spectra to the SDCard if `m_Enable` becomes true;

The **`m_SpectrumType`** can be set to 0, 1 or 2 to indicate that a dark (\*.drk), reference (\*.ref) or scope (\*.roh) spectrum should be saved. The **`m_aFileRootName[6]`** parameter is a character string that is used as first part of the name of the stored spectra. A sequence number (00 to 99 if the rootname is six characters long, 000 to 999 if the rootname is five characters long etc...) and the file extension (\*.drk), reference (\*.ref) or scope (\*.roh) completes the filename on SDCard.

The **`m_TimeStamp`** parameter has been added to be able to add a date/time to the files saved on SDCard.



### 3.6.3 EEPROM structure: Irradiance, Reflectance Calibration and Spectrum Correction

The m\_Irradiance, m\_Reflectance and m\_SpectrumCorrect parameters occupy together over 99% of the defined memory in the EEPROM structure (Sizeof(DeviceParamType) with the m\_aReserved block excluded). This is because each of these three parameters include an array of 4096 (MAX\_NR\_PIXELS) float numbers which can hold pixel specific calibration data.

The Irradiance Calibration structure (IrradianceType) has been defined to store the results of an irradiance intensity calibration in EEPROM, as well as the settings during this calibration (integration time, smoothing, measurement setup, fiberdiameter). By reading these data from EEPROM, it will be possible to convert a spectrum with raw scopedata into an irradiance spectrum.

#### How to convert ScopeData (A/D Counts) to a power distribution [ $\mu\text{Watt}/(\text{cm}^2.\text{nm})$ ]

In the application software, the smoothpix value in the preparemeasurement structure should be set to the same value as the smoothpix during the intensity calibration. This value can be found in m\_Irradiance.m\_IntensityCalib.m\_Smoothing.m\_SmoothPix.

Also, before the irradiance intensity for a pixel  $i$  can be calculated, a dark spectrum (= A/D Counts with no light exposed to spectrometer) should be saved (once) at the integration time that will be used in the measurements. The dark spectrum for each pixel  $i$  can be called e.g. darkdata( $i$ ).

The irradiance intensity at a certain pixel  $i$  ( $i = 0 \dots \text{totalpixels}-1$ ) can then be calculated from:

ScopeData( $i$ ) = Measured A/D Counts at pixel  $i$  (AVS\_GetScopeData)  
DarkData( $i$ ) = Dark data at pixel  $i$ , saved in application software  
IntensityCal( $i$ ) = m\_Irradiance.m\_IntensityCalib.m\_aCalibConvers[ $i$ ]  
CalInttime = m\_Irradiance.m\_IntensityCalib.m\_CallInttime  
CurInttime = Integration time in measurement (used in the PrepareMeasurement structure)

The equation for irradiance intensity at pixel  $i$  then becomes:

Inttimefactor = (CalInttime/CurInttime)  
Irradiance Intensity = Inttimefactor \* ((ScopeData( $i$ ) - DarkData( $i$ ))/IntensityCal( $i$ ))

**If Scopedata( $i$ ) and Darkdata( $i$ ) are taken with the 16bit ADC Counts range** (see also section 2.3.36, function AVS\_UseHighResAdc), an additional “ADCFactor” needs to be added to the equation above, because the intensity calibration (if performed by Avantes, or by using AvaSoft application software) is always recorded in 14bit mode. The value of “ADCFactor” becomes 0.25 when running in 16bit ADC mode and 1.0 when running in 14bit ADC mode. The equation becomes:

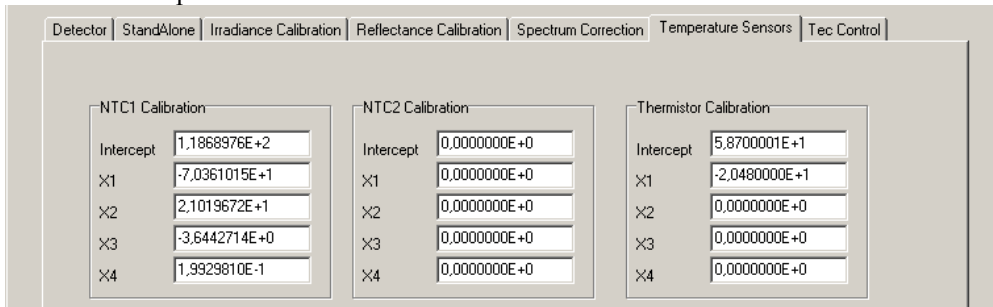
Irradiance Intensity = ADCFactor \* Inttimefactor \* ((ScopeData( $i$ ) - DarkData( $i$ ))/IntensityCal( $i$ ))

The Reflectance Calibration data can be used to convert the scopedata into a Reflectance or Absorbance spectrum. The Spectrum Correction data can be used to correct the spectral data, e.g. for Pixel Response Non Uniformity (PRNU), or for temperature effects. The Reflectance and Correction arrays are not yet used for calibration purposes by Avantes.

### 3.6.4 EEPROM structure: Temperature Sensors

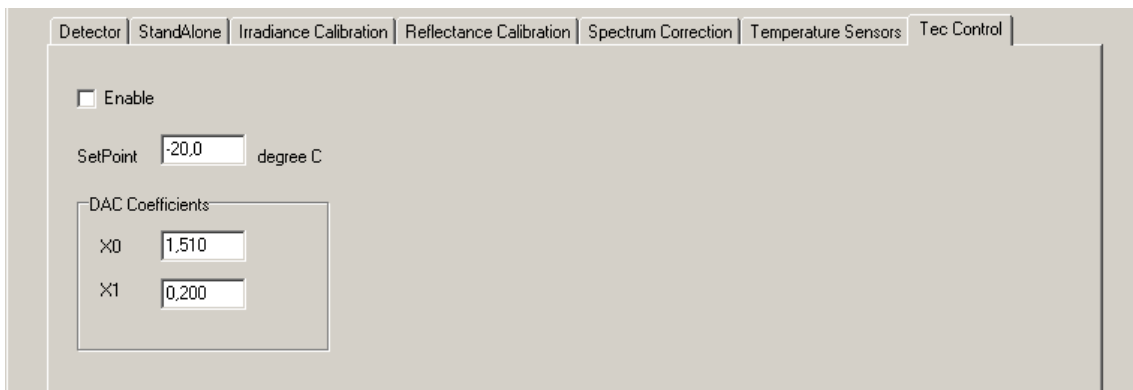
The as5216 boards are prepared for using up to three thermistors. NTC1 is mounted on the board, NTC2 is not mounted, and the third thermistor is in the NIR2.2 detector. The voltage level of the thermistors can be retrieved by calling the AVS\_GetAnalogIn function (see also section 2.3.16 and 3.5).

The structure TempSensorType can hold the coefficients for a polynomial that converts the voltage level into a temperature.



NTC1 Calibration	NTC2 Calibration	Thermistor Calibration
Intercept: 1.1868976E+2	Intercept: 0.0000000E+0	Intercept: 5.8700001E+1
X1: -7.0361015E+1	X1: 0.0000000E+0	X1: -2.0480000E+1
X2: 2.1019672E+1	X2: 0.0000000E+0	X2: 0.0000000E+0
X3: -3.6442714E+0	X3: 0.0000000E+0	X3: 0.0000000E+0
X4: 1.9929810E-1	X4: 0.0000000E+0	X4: 0.0000000E+0

### 3.6.5 EEPROM structure: Tec Control



Enable  
 SetPoint:  degree C  
 DAC Coefficients:  
 X0:   
 X1:

The TecControl parameters are used to control the cooling of the detector in the AvaSpec-256-NIR2.2. For this spectrometer, the m\_Enable flag will always be set to true. The default setpoint in degrees Celsius is  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but it can be changed if needed. It is not recommended to change the DAC polynomial (m\_aFit) which has been optimized for the AvaSpec-256-NIR2.2.

To monitor the detector temperature of the AvaSpec-256-NIR2.2, use the AVS\_GetAnalogIn function, with a\_AnalogInId set to 0 (see also section 2.3.16 and 3.5).

The polynomial for converting the voltage (U) to degrees Celsius for the thermistor is:

$$\text{Temp } [^{\circ}\text{C}] = 58.70 - 20.48 * U$$

The thermistor coefficients are stored in m\_Temperature[2] (see section 3.6.4).





### 3.6.6 EEPROM structure: ProcessControl

The settings in the ProcessControl structure can be used for the 2 analog and 10 digital output signals at the DB26 connector.

The analog settings can be used to store a function output range that should correspond to the 0-5V range of the analog output signals. For example, if the measured function output is expected to be in a range between 1000 and 2000, these values can be stored in the `m_AnalogLow[0]` and `m_AnalogHigh[0]` parameters. The function output can then be converted to a 0-5V analog output at pin 17 by using the range stored in eeprom.

The digital output settings can be used as lower- and upper thresholds, to set the corresponding pins to 0 or 5V if these thresholds are exceeded.

The Process Control structure has been successfully used in applications, in which the spectrometer runs completely standalone, without a connection to a PC. Data processing is in that case done onboard by dedicated firmware and the analog and digital outputs are used to signal the function output.