



Starling 1.2 Reference Manual

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Revision History

| Version | Date | Description |
|---------|------------|--|
| 0.9 | 2020-04-11 | Initial version |
| 0.91 | 2020-05-22 | Incorporate documentation updates from <i>Sensorfusion configuration</i> |
| 0.92 | 2020-05-30 | Incorporate documentation updates from Swift platform documentation |
| 1.1.11 | 2020-06-18 | Updates for v1.1.11 release |
| 1.1.14 | 2020-07-24 | Minor updates based on internal review |
| 1.2.0 | 2020-09-16 | Update for v1.2 release |
| 1.2.1 | 2020-10-15 | Minor updates for Starling v1.2.27. |
| 1.2.2 | 2020-10-28 | Minor updates for Starling v1.2.30. |
| 1.2.3 | 2020-11-12 | Odometry mode config entry added, Starling v1.2.31. |

Terms and Abbreviations

| Term | Definition |
|-------|---|
| 6 DoF | 6 Degrees of Freedom |
| ARP | Antenna Reference Point |
| DR | Dead Reckoning |
| IMU | Inertial Measurement Unit |
| NMEA | National Marine Electronics Association |
| NTRIP | Networked Transport of RTCM via Internet Protocol |
| PVAT | Position, Velocity, Attitude and Time |
| PVT | Position, Velocity and Time |
| RTCM | Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services |
| SBP | Swift Binary Protocol |
| VRP | Vehicle Reference Point |
| YAML | Yet Another Mark-up Language |

Reference Documents

| ID | Revision | Publication Date | Title |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| [F9P] | R08 | 2020-05-28 | u-blox F9 high precision GNSS receiver, Interface Description |
| [NMEA] | 4.11 | November 2018 | NMEA 0183 Standard for Interfacing Marine Electronic Devices |
| [RTCM3] | Version 3 + Amendments 1 & 2 | 2013-11-07 | RTCM Standard 10403.2, Differential GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) Services - Version 3 |
| [SBP] | 2.6.3 | 2019-06-10 | Swift Navigation Binary Protocol, Protocol Specification |

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1. Introduction

The Starling™ Positioning Engine is Swift Navigation’s next-generation precise positioning library which is designed for automotive and autonomous vehicle applications. The Starling executable implements a run-time environment for running the Starling Positioning Engine in common usage scenarios.

2. Overview

The Starling Positioning Engine is internally comprised of two main subsystems, referred to as *engines*.

- The *GNSS Engine*, which ingests GNSS measurements to compute a Position, Velocity and Time (PVT) solution. An optional source of correction data (e.g. the Skylark™ cloud correction service) can be used to increase the accuracy and integrity of the output solution.
- The *Fusion Engine*, which is responsible for ingesting the output from the GNSS Engine along with data from external sensors (such as IMUs and Wheel Odometry) to compute position and attitude in GNSS-denied environments.

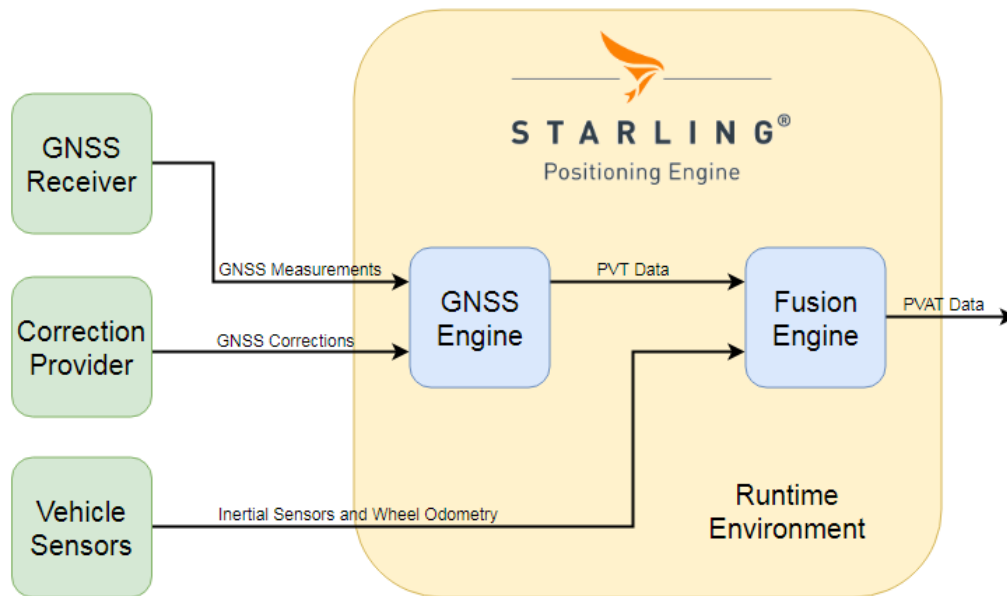


Figure 1: Starling Overview

These two engines are hosted in a runtime environment which is responsible for tasks such as message I/O, protocol conversion and interaction with the host platform.

2.1. GNSS Engine

The measurement data consists of both observations and ephemerides. Depending upon the use case, observation and ephemeris data may be provided separately or in a single stream. Ephemeris data may also be provided in the correction data stream, as is the case with Skylark™.

The following diagram provides a high-level overview of the inputs and outputs used by the GNSS Engine:

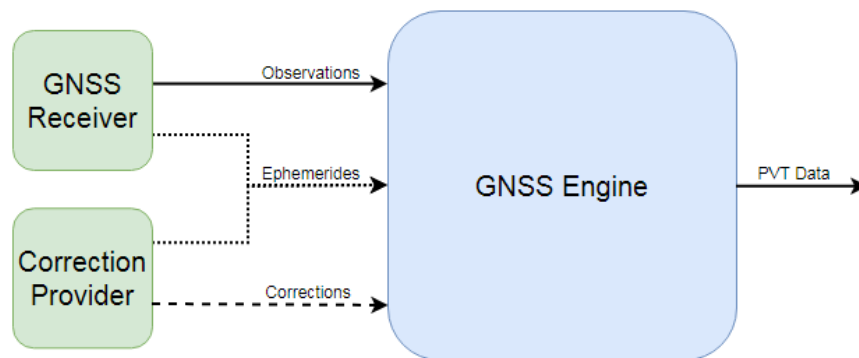


Figure 2: GNSS Engine Inputs and Outputs

Incoming data (i.e. observations, ephemerides and corrections) can be provided in RTCM v3, SBP or UBX formats. Output data can be generated in either SBP or NMEA 0183 formats. See Appendix A for a more detailed description of the input and output messages supported by Starling.

The GNSS engine generates position output for every incoming observation epoch, i.e. an incoming observation at rate of 10 Hz will result in an outgoing PVT rate of 10 Hz. Epochs without observations (e.g. due to GNSS signals obstructions) will result in no PVT output being generated.

2.2. Fusion Engine

The Fusion Engine combines the output from the GNSS Engine with data received from one or more vehicle sensors in order to compute a PVAT solution. The data flow is depicted in Figure 3.

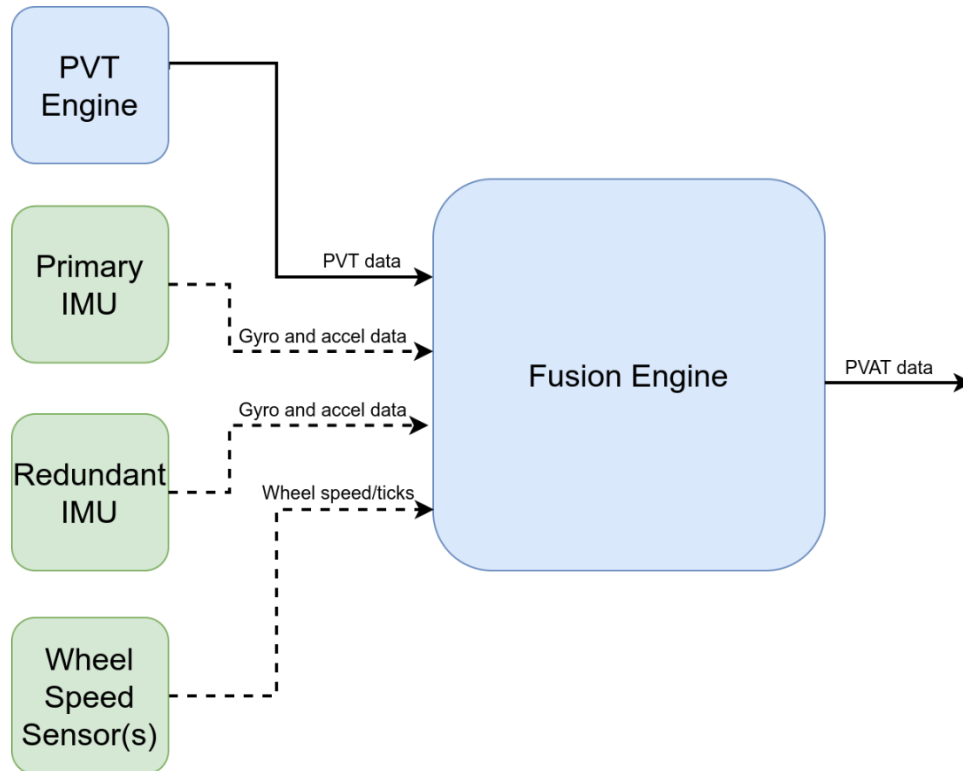


Figure 3: Fusion Engine Inputs and Outputs

The minimum vehicle sensor input required by the Fusion Engine is a single 6 DoF IMU. If data from a second IMU is provided, then this data will be cross-checked against the information from the primary sensor in order to detect sensor faults. Note that this is a mandatory requirement for ASIL-rated use cases.

The optional Wheel Odometry input can be used to constrain error growth when operating in pure Dead Reckoning mode, e.g. when driving through tunnels. Wheel Odometry input may be provided as either an on-ground speed value or as a number of wheel ticks (in which case the correct tire size must also be provided).

The Fusion Engine outputs data at a fixed rate once the initial filter alignment process is completed. This rate is specified in Starling configuration file. IMU data should be provided at least twice as fast as the Fusion Engine output rate, meaning that the minimum rate for IMU data is 20 Hz.

2.2.1. Alignment Process

The Fusion Engine needs to perform an alignment procedure before it can provide position aiding to the system. The Fusion Engine will begin its alignment process once the GNSS has achieved a minimum accuracy threshold (position standard deviation < 30 m, velocity standard deviation < 1 m/s) and a straight-line movement at > 5 m/s (20 km/h, 12 MPH) occurs. Alignment should typically complete within 20 - 50 m distance if sky visibility remains good.

2.3. Runtime Environment

The Swift runtime Platform Infrastructure supports a variety of I/O methods for incoming and outgoing data, namely:

- Binary files (see Section 3.2.5.2)
- Serial ports (see Section 3.2.5.3)
- Standard I/O streams (see Section 3.2.5.4)
- TCP client with optional NTRIP client (see Section 3.2.5.5)
- TCP servers (see Section 3.2.5.6)

These are referred to as *endpoints*. Each endpoint can be configured to use a given *protocol*. The supported protocols are as follows:

- `nmea`: NMEA 0183 ASCII sentences as defined in [NMEA]
- `ntrip`: Networked Transport of RTCM via Internet Protocol (for corrections only)
- `rtcm`: Version 3.2 of the RTCM standard as defined in [RTCM3]
- `sbp`: Swift Binary Protocol as defined in [SBP]
- `ubx`: u-blox UBX Protocol (v27.11 or higher) as defined in [F9P] (input only)

Additional information about the specific messages supported for each protocol can be found in Appendix A.

3. Usage

On typical platforms (like Linux PC) Starling can be launched from a terminal, example:

```
./starling-v1.2.31-x86 --config starling-cfg.yaml --log stdout
```

To stop Starling press Ctrl-C on the keyboard or send SIGTERM to the process.

The runtime configuration for Starling is provided via a YAML text file. The location of this file is provided to the starling executable using the `--config` parameter.

3.1. Command Line Parameters

3.1.1. Mandatory

The following command line parameter must be provided when invoking Starling:

| Option | Type | Description |
|--------------------------------|--------|--|
| <code>--config filename</code> | string | Path and name of the configuration YAML file |

3.1.2. Optional

The following optional command line parameters can be used to facilitate debugging:

| Option | Type | Default | Description |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|--|
| <code>--log name</code> | string | "" | Direct logging output to file. Accepts any valid path or the special values <code>stdout/stderr</code> |
| <code>--log_level</code> | string | "warning" | Filter log messages based on severity level. Log messages will only be output if they have a severity which is equal to or greater than the specified level. Valid options (in descending order of criticality) are <code>emergency, alert, critical, error, warning, notice, info, debug</code> , or the numerical enum value used by the starling configuration structures |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| <code>--output_version</code> | <code>bool</code> | False | Output version information to the log during execution |
| <code>--verify_config</code> | <code>bool</code> | False | Only validate whether the specified configuration file is formatted correctly and exit with success or failure based upon the parsing result. Note that initialisation of <code>starling</code> may still fail based on input values. |
| <code>--record name</code> | <code>string</code> | <code>""</code> | Record all Starling input and output data in a separate directory. Upon each start a new directory with name and date, time will be created. Large files will be created. Use with caution. |
| <code>--version</code> | | | Outputs Starling version to stdout and quits |

The `--log` parameter is of particular importance since the argument `--log stderr` can be supplied to diagnose any failures which may occur at startup (e.g. inability to listen on the specified TCP port).

3.2. YAML Configuration File

The Starling configuration is specified using a YAML text file which is formatted as follows:

```
---
name: <configuration name> {string}
[combined-rover-input: <availability of additional sensor data> {bool}]
[solution-frequency: <solution frequency in Hertz> {float}]
gnss:
  type: <L1L2|L1L5|piksi-multi|LG69T-AP>
  rover:
    protocol: <nmea|rtcm|sbp|ubx>
    <endpoint> {object}
  [corrections:
    protocol: <nmea|ntrip|rtcm|sbp|ubx>
    <endpoint> {object}
    [ntrip-mount-point: <NTRIP mount point> {string}]
    [ntrip-username: <NTRIP username> {string}]
    [ntrip-password: <NTRIP password> {string}]
    ntrip-gpgga-period: <GPGGA rate solution-frequency units> {uint}]]
[fusion:
  [imu:
    protocol: <nmea|rtcm|sbp|ubx>
```

```

    <endpoint> {object}}
[wheel-odometry:
  protocol: <nmea|rtcm|sbp|ubx>
  <endpoint> {object}}
[antenna-leverarm-meters-sensorframe:
  [x: <x coordinate> {double}]
  [y: <y coordinate> {double}]
  [z: <z coordinate> {double}]
  [deviation: <uncertainty of antenna leverarm measurement> {double}]]
[wheelspeed-leverarm-meters-sensorframe:
  [x: <x coordinate> {double}]
  [y: <y coordinate> {double}]
  [z: <z coordinate> {double}]
  [deviation: <uncertainty of wheelspeed leverarm measurement> {double}]]
[rotation-sensor-vehicle-degrees:
  [x: <x axis rotation> {double}]
  [y: <y axis rotation> {double}]
  [z: <z axis rotation> {double}]
  [deviation: <uncertainty of misalignment measurement> {double}]]
[vrp-leverarm-meters-sensorframe:
  [x: <x coordinate> {double}]
  [y: <y coordinate> {double}]
  [z: <z coordinate> {double}]
  [deviation: <uncertainty of VRP coordinates in meters> {double}]
  [enable-transformation: <transformation to VRP> {bool}]]]
output:
  protocol: <nmea|rtcm|sbp>
  <endpoint> {object}

```

There are four high-level categories of settings which can be specified:

1. Global settings which are defined in the root section
2. A `gnss` section which defines the configuration of the GNSS Engine
3. An optional `fusion` section which defines the configuration of the Fusion Engine
4. An `output` section which defines the destination for Starling output

The supported options for each section are described in the remainder of this chapter. Appendix B lists an example YAML file which can be used for demonstration and testing purposes.

3.2.1. Global Settings

name

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Type | string |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Description | Text field containing string describing the configuration file. Spaces in the name are acceptable. |
|-------------|--|

combined-rover-input

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | bool |
| Required | No |
| Default | false |
| Description | Indicates that the GNSS input stream contains additional sensor data that may be used for sensor fusion. |

solution-frequency

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | float |
| Required | Yes, if <code>nmea</code> or <code>ntrip</code> endpoint is specified in the configuration |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Solution frequency in Hz. |

3.2.2. GNSS

The `gnss` section is mandatory and defines the configuration of the GNSS Engine. This section includes the `rover` and (optional) `corrections` subsections which are used to specify the input sources for measurement and correction data respectively.

type

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Configure the GNSS Engine for a pre-defined scenario. This includes, but is not limited to, configuration of the expected frequency ranges for incoming measurements and correction data. Valid values are <code>L1L2</code> , <code>L1L5</code> , <code>piksi-multi</code> , <code>LG69T-AP</code> . <code>L1L2</code> scenario can also be used for L1-only operation. |

3.2.2.1. Rover

The `rover` section requires a mandatory endpoint (see Section 3.2.5) to define the source of measurement data.

protocol

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Protocol of incoming measurement data. Valid values are <code>nmea</code> , <code>rtcm</code> , <code>sbp</code> and <code>ubx</code> . |

3.2.2.2. Corrections

The `corrections` section is optional. If it is specified then it requires a mandatory endpoint (see Section 3.2.5) to define the source of correction data.

protocol

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Protocol of incoming correction data. Valid values are <code>nmea</code> , <code>ntrip</code> , <code>rtcm</code> , <code>sbp</code> and <code>ubx</code> . |

ntrip-mount-point

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | string |
| Required | Yes, if <code>ntrip</code> protocol is specified for corrections |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Mount point for NTRIP caster. |

ntrip-username

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | string |
| Required | No |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | User name for NTRIP caster. If not specified then no authorization procedure is attempted when a new NTRIP connection is established. |

ntrip-password

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | string |
| Required | No |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Password for NTRIP caster. If not specified then no authorization procedure is attempted when a new NTRIP connection is established. |

ntrip-gpgga-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | Yes, if <code>ntrip</code> protocol is specified for corrections |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Rate at which GGA sentences are sent to NTRIP caster. Set to zero to disable GGA output. Units are a multiple of solution period. |

3.2.3. Fusion

The `fusion` section defines the configuration of the Fusion Engine. All subsections within this section are optional.

3.2.3.1. IMU

The `imu` section is not needed when the `combined-rover-input` option is enabled. Otherwise it is mandatory to specify an endpoint to define the source of IMU data.

protocol

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Protocol of incoming IMU data. Valid values are <code>nmea</code> , <code>rtcm</code> , <code>sbp</code> and <code>ubx</code> . |

3.2.3.2. Wheel Odometry

The `wheel-odometry` section is optional. If it is specified then it requires a mandatory endpoint to define the source of wheel odometry data.

protocol

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | Enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Protocol of incoming wheel odometry data. Valid values are <code>nmea</code> , <code>rtcm</code> , <code>sbp</code> and <code>ubx</code> . |

3.2.3.3. Antenna Lever Arm

The optional `antenna-leverarm-meters-sensorframe` section specifies the offset vector from the IMU reference point to the GNSS antenna phase center. These values should be as accurate as possible in order to achieve the highest possible inertial fusion performance.

x

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Antenna lever arm X axis distance (metres). |

y

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Antenna lever arm Y axis distance (metres). |

z

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Antenna lever arm Z axis distance (metres). |

deviation

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 1.0 |
| Description | Standard deviation of antenna lever arm measurement (metres). Must be greater than 0. This value should overestimate the actual expected error. |

3.2.3.4. Wheel Speed Lever Arm

The optional `wheelspeed-leverarm-meters-sensorframe` section specifies the offset vector from the centre of navigation (i.e. accelerometer intersection point) to the wheel contact point. These values should be as accurate as possible in order to achieve the highest possible dead reckoning performance.

x

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Wheel speed lever arm X coordinate (metres). |

y

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Wheel speed lever arm Y coordinate (metres). |

z

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Wheel speed lever arm Z coordinate (metres). |

deviation

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 1.0 |
| Description | Standard deviation of wheel speed lever arm measurement (metres). Must be greater than 0. This value should overestimate the actual expected error. |

3.2.3.5. Rotation Sensor

The optional `rotation-sensor-vehicle-degrees` section specifies the intrinsic rotation sequence from the sensor to the vehicle frame of reference. The rotations are applied in ZYX order.

x

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Rotation around the X axis (degrees). |

y

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Rotation around the Y axis (degrees). |

z

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Rotation around the Z axis (degrees). |

deviation

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 10.0 |
| Description | Standard deviation of misalignment measurement (degrees). Must be greater than 0. This value should overestimate the actual expected error. |

3.2.3.6. Vehicle Reference Point

The optional `vrp-leverarm-meters-sensorframe` section allows a custom reference point to be specified in the vehicle frame of reference. If specified, the PVAT output from the Fusion Engine will be relative to this point. If not specified then the antenna phase centre will be used.

x

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Vehicle Reference Point lever arm X coordinate (metres). |

y

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Vehicle Reference Point lever arm Y coordinate (metres). |

z

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.0 |
| Description | Vehicle Reference Point lever arm Z coordinate (metres). |

deviation

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | double |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0.01 |
| Description | Standard deviation of Vehicle Reference Point coordinates (metres). Must be greater than 0. |

enable-transform

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | bool |
| Required | No |
| Default | false |
| Description | Enable transformation of PVAT output to Vehicle Reference Point. |

3.2.3.7. Odometry Mode

odometry-mode

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | String |
| Required | No |
| Default | wheelticks |
| Description | Sets up the source and usage of odometry information inside of the fusion engine. Allowed values: wheelticks, speed-sensor, motion-detection-only, do-not-use |

3.2.3.8. Tuning Profile

tuning-profile

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Type | String |
| Required | No |
| Default | default |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Description | Enables custom sensor fusion profile. Allowed values: <code>default</code> , <code>car-a</code> , <code>car-b</code> , <code>car-c</code> . |
|-------------|---|

3.2.4. Output

The `output` section is mandatory and defines the destination for Starling output. It requires a mandatory endpoint (see Section 3.2.5) to define the destination of the data.

protocol

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Protocol for Starling output. Valid values are <code>nmea</code> , <code>rtcm</code> , <code>sbp</code> . |

3.2.5. Endpoints

An endpoint object represents an input or output device which is used to communicate data between Starling and the host platform. An endpoint object has a mandatory `type` field which must be set to one of the following values: `file`, `serial`, `stdstream`, `tcp-client`, `tcp-server` or `udp`. The `type` field must be followed by a number of additional fields which vary depending upon the endpoint type. An endpoint definition may also contain additional optional parameters which do not depend on the endpoint type.

3.2.5.1. Optional Parameters

buffer-size

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | The maximum frame size to use for the given protocol. A value of 0 means that a protocol-specific default value will be used. |

3.2.5.1.1. NMEA

These parameters are only valid for the NMEA protocol and specify the rate at which different NMEA 0183 sentences will be sent to the output. All output sentences use the `GP` talker identifier.

gpgga-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPGGA sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gppll-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPPLL sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gpgsa-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPGSA sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gpgst-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPGST sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gpgsv-period

| | |
|----------|------|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPGSV sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gphdt-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPHDT sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gprmc-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPRMC sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gpvtg-period

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |
| Description | Period at which GPVTG sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |

gpzda-period

| | |
|----------|------|
| Type | uint |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Description | Period at which GPZDA sentences will be sent to the output. Units are a multiple of <code>solution-frequency</code> . |
|-------------|---|

3.2.5.2. File Endpoint

A `file` endpoint represents an abstract file as supported by the host platform. Note that this may be a device path on targets which represent devices as files (e.g. UNIX-type platforms).

path

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | string |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | A file path which is meaningful to the underlying platform. |

3.2.5.3. Serial Endpoint

A `serial` endpoint represents a serial endpoint on the host platform (e.g. UART or TTY device).

identifier

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | string |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | A serial device identifier which is meaningful to the underlying platform, e.g. <code>/dev/tty0</code> . |

baud-rate

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Type | uint32 |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Baud rate for the serial device. |

byte-size

| | |
|------|-----|
| Type | int |
|------|-----|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Number of data bits for the serial device. Valid values are 7 and 8. |

parity

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Parity configuration for the serial device. Valid values are <code>N</code> (none), <code>O</code> (odd), and <code>E</code> (even). |

stop-bits

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | int |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Number of stop bits for the serial device. Valid values are 1 and 2. |

flow-control

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | bool |
| Required | No |
| Default | false |
| Description | Enable hardware handshaking for the serial device. |

3.2.5.4. Standard Stream Endpoint

A `stdstream` endpoint represents a standard input, standard output or standard error stream on the host platform.

stdstream-type

| | |
|------|------|
| Type | enum |
|------|------|

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Stream to use. Valid options are <code>stdin</code> , <code>stdout</code> and <code>stderr</code> . |

3.2.5.5. TCP Client Endpoint

A `tcp-client` endpoint represents a TCP socket on the host platform.

host

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type | string |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Remote server hostname or IP address. |

port

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Type | uint16 |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | TCP port number on remote server. |

ip-version

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | No |
| Default | any |
| Description | Specifies the IP version to use when setting up a TCP connection. Valid values are <code>any</code> , <code>ipv4</code> and <code>ipv6</code> . |

connect-timeout

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Type | duration |
| Required | No |
| Default | 0 |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Description | Maximum time that Starling will wait before giving up on a TCP connection attempt. A value of 0 means that it will wait indefinitely. |
|-------------|---|

3.2.5.5.1. TCP Keep-Alive

This optional subsection describes a set of options for TCP keep-alive functionality.

enable

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Type | bool |
| Required | No |
| Default | false |
| Description | Enable TCP keep-alive functionality. |

idle

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | duration |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Length of time that a connection remains idle before TCP starts sending keep alive probes. |

interval

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | duration |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Length of time between individual keep alive probes. |

retries

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | uint16 |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Maximum number of keep alive probes that TCP should send before dropping the connection. |

3.2.5.6. TCP Server Endpoint

A `tcp-server` endpoint represents a TCP server on the host platform.

port

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | uint16 |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Local port number to listen on for incoming TCP connections. |

max-conns

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | uint |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Maximum number of client connections to support. |

ip-version

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | No |
| Default | any |
| Description | Specifies the IP version to use when setting up a TCP connection. Valid values are <code>any</code> , <code>ipv4</code> and <code>ipv6</code> . |

3.2.5.6.1. TCP Keep-Alive

This optional subsection describes a set of options for TCP keep-alive functionality.

enable

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Type | bool |
| Required | No |
| Default | false |
| Description | Enable TCP keep-alive functionality. |

idle

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | duration |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Length of time that a connection remains idle before TCP starts sending keep alive probes. |

interval

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | duration |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Length of time between individual keep alive probes. |

retries

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Type | uint16 |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Maximum number of keep alive probes that TCP should send before dropping the connection. |

3.2.5.7. UDP Endpoint

A `udp` endpoint represents a UDP socket endpoint on the host platform.

host

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type | string |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Remote server hostname or IP address. |

port

| | |
|------|--------|
| Type | uint16 |
|------|--------|

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | UDP port number on the remote server. |

ip-version

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Type | enum |
| Required | Yes |
| Default | N/A |
| Description | Specifies the IP version to use when sending UDP data. Valid values are <code>ipv4</code> and <code>ipv6</code> . |

3.2.6. Durations

Fields of type `duration` are specified using the format `<int64><ns|us|ms|s|m|h>`.

The `int64` is the numerical value whereas the `<ns|us|ms|s|m|h>` portion represents the unit. Therefore, an entry of `10ns` indicates 10 nanoseconds and `5m` corresponds to 5 minutes.

Appendix A. Supported Messages

A.1. GNSS Engine Inputs

The GNSS Engine requires GNSS measurements from a Measurement Engine to compute a PVT solution. More precisely, it requires:

- Pseudorange, phase range and CNR observables from the satellites
- Ephemeris data (optional)
- GLONASS L1 and L2 code phase biases (if using GLONASS)

If a correction service is used to improve the accuracy, the GNSS Engine will use:

- Pseudorange, phase range and CNR observables from the satellites
- Reference station location
- Ephemeris data (optional)
- GLONASS L1 and L2 code phase biases (if using GLONASS)

For the inputs, the GNSS Engine supports any one of three protocols:

1. RTCM v3.2. See [RTCM3] for further details.
2. Swift Binary Protocol (SBP). See [SBP] for further details.
3. u-blox UBX Protocol (v27.11 or higher). See [F9P] for further details.

A.1.1. Rover Measurements

A.1.1.1. Pseudorange, Phase Range and CNR Observables

The following messages are required if measurement input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format:

| Message ID | Description |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1074 to 1077 | GPS |
| 1084 to 1087 | GLONASS |
| 1094 to 1097 | Galileo |
| 1124 to 1127 | BeiDou |
| 1114 to 1117 | QZSS |

The following message is required if measurement input is provided in SBP format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|-------------|
| 74 | MSG_OBS |

The following message is required if measurement input is provided in UBX format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|--------------|
| 0x02 0x15 | UBX-RXM-RAWX |

A.1.1.2. Ephemeris Data

The following messages are required if measurement input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format and the Measurement Engine is to act as the source of ephemerides:

| Message ID | Description |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1019 | GPS |
| 1020 | GLONASS |
| 1045 and 1046 | Galileo |
| 1042 | BeiDou |
| 1044 | QZSS |

The following messages are required if measurement input is provided in SBP format and the Measurement Engine is to act as the source of ephemerides:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|--------------------|
| 138 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_GPS |
| 139 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_GLO |
| 141 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_GAL |
| 137 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_BDS |
| 142 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_QZSS |

The following messages are required if measurement input is provided in UBX format and the Measurement Engine is to act as the source of ephemerides:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|---------------|
| 0x02 0x13 | UBX-RXM-SFRBX |

A.1.1.3. GLONASS L1 and L2 Code Phase Biases

The following message is required if measurement input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1230 | GLONASS L1 and L2 Code-Phase Biases |

The following message is required if measurement input is provided in SBP format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|----------------|
| 117 | MSG_GLO_BIASES |

A.1.2. Corrections

A.1.2.1. Pseudorange, Phase Range and CNR Observables

The following messages are required if correction input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format:

| Message ID | Description |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1074 to 1077 | GPS |
| 1084 to 1087 | GLONASS |
| 1094 to 1097 | Galileo |
| 1124 to 1127 | BeiDou |
| 1114 to 1117 | QZSS |

The following message is required if correction input is provided in SBP format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|-------------|
| 74 | MSG_OBS |

A.1.2.2. Reference Station Location

The following messages are required if correction input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|--|
| 1005 | Stationary RTK reference station ARP |
| 1006 | Stationary RTK reference station ARP with antenna height |

The following message is required if correction input is provided in SBP format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|-------------------|
| 72 | MSG_BASE_POS_ECEF |

A.1.2.3. Ephemeris Data

The following messages are required if correction input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format and the correction provider is to act as the source of ephemerides:

| Message ID | Description |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1019 | GPS |
| 1020 | GLONASS |
| 1045 and 1046 | Galileo |
| 1042 | BeiDou |
| 1044 | QZSS |

The following messages are required if correction input is provided in SBP format and the correction provider is to act as the source of ephemerides:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|--------------------|
| 138 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_GPS |
| 139 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_GLO |
| 141 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_GAL |
| 137 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_BDS |
| 142 | MSG_EPHEMERIS_QZSS |

A.1.2.4. GLONASS L1 and L2 Code Phase Biases

The following message is required if correction input is provided in RTCM v3.2 format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1230 | GLONASS L1 and L2 Code-Phase Biases |

The following message is required if correction input is provided in SBP format:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|----------------|
| 117 | MSG_GLO_BIASES |

A.2. Fusion Engine Inputs

The following SBP messages are used to provide vehicle sensor input to the Fusion Engine:

| Message ID | Description |
|------------|-------------------|
| 2304 | SBP_MSG_IMU_RAW |
| 2305 | SBP_MSG_IMU_AUX |
| 2307 | SBP_MSG_ODOMETRY |
| 2308 | SBP_MSG_WHEELTICK |

See [SBP] for further information about the SBP protocol and the contents of these messages.

A.3. SBP Output Messages

The table below lists the outputs generated by the PVT and Fusion Engines. Note that messages from other sender IDs may be present in the output depending upon the specifics of the executing platform and input sensor configuration. For example, if correction data is provided then it will be forwarded with sender ID 0.

The output rate of the messages originating from the GNSS Engine depends upon the incoming rate of observations.

The SBP messages with ID (decimal) 258, 259, 522, 529, 521, 532, 526, 530, 525, 533, 545, 65283, 65286, and 65295 belong to the “Best Position” group and contain the best possible output from all available subsystems.

| Sender ID | Source | Message ID (dec) | Message ID (hex) | Type |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 260 | 104 | GPS_TIME_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 261 | 105 | UTC_TIME_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 520 | 208 | DOPS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 523 | 20B | BASELINE_ECEF |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 524 | 20C | BASELINE_NED |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 528 | 210 | AGE_CORRECTIONS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 534 | 216 | PROTECTION_LEVEL |

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|-------|------|-------------------|
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 553 | 229 | POS_ECEF_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 554 | 22A | POS_LLH_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 557 | 22D | VEL_ECEF_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 558 | 22E | VEL_NED_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 561 | 231 | POS_LLH_COV_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 562 | 232 | VEL_NED_COV_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 564 | 234 | POS_ECEF_COV_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 565 | 235 | VEL_ECEF_COV_GNSS |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 1025 | 401 | LOG |
| 4096 | GNSS Engine | 65282 | FF02 | DGNSS_STATUS |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 258 | 102 | GPS_TIME |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 259 | 103 | UTC_TIME |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 521 | 209 | POS_ECEF |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 522 | 20A | POS_LLH |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 525 | 20D | VEL_ECEF |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 526 | 20E | VEL_NED |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 529 | 211 | POS_LLH_COV |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 530 | 212 | VEL_NED_COV |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 532 | 214 | POS_ECEF_COV |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 533 | 215 | VEL_ECEF_COV |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 545 | 221 | ORIENT_EULER |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 65283 | FF03 | INS_STATUS |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 65286 | FF06 | INS_UPDATES |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 65290 | FF0A | GROUP_META |
| 789 | Fusion Engine | 65295 | FF0E | SOLN_META |

See [SBP] for further information about the SBP protocol and the contents of these messages.

A.4. NMEA Output Messages

The following messages are supported for the NMEA output mode:

| Sentence Formatter | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| GGA | Global Positioning System Fix Data |
| GLL | Geographic Position – Latitude/Longitude |
| GSA | GNSS DOP and Active Satellites |
| GST | GNSS Pseudorange Error Statistics |
| GSV | GNSS Satellites In View |
| HDT | Heading, True |
| RMC | Recommended Minimum Specific GNSS Data |
| VTG | Course Over Ground & Ground Speed |
| ZDA | Time and Date |

See [NMEA] for further information about the NMEA 0183 protocol and the contents of these sentences.

Appendix B. Example YAML Configuration File

The following YAML file will configure Starling as follows:

- Receive measurements in RTCM3 format from 192.168.1.101, port 52302
- Receive corrections in RTCM v3 format from Skylark EU (eu.skylark.swiftnav.com, port 2101) via NTRIP
- Send GGA sentences to Skylark at 1 Hz
- Read IMU data from `/dev/imu` in SBP format
- Use a lever arm of (0.25, 0.939, 1.14) from the IMU to the antenna phase centre
- Rotate the raw IMU data by 90 degrees around Z followed by a 180 degrees rotation around X
- Output PVT data in SBP format via a TCP server running on port 55555

```
---
name: Example YAML configuration file
solution-frequency: 1
gnss:
  type: L1L2
  rover:
    protocol: rtcm
    type: tcp-client
    host: 192.168.1.101
    port: 52302
  corrections:
    protocol: ntrip
    type: tcp-client
    host: eu.swiftnav.com
    port: 2101
    ntrip-username: <username>
    ntrip-password: <password>
    ntrip-mount-point: OSR
    ntrip-gpgga-period: 1
fusion:
  imu:
    protocol: sbp
    type: file
    path: /dev/imu
  antenna-leverarm-meters-sensorframe:
    x: 0.25
    y: 0.939
    z: 1.14
```

```
deviation: 0.01
rotation-sensor-vehicle-degrees:
  z: 90
  y: 0
  x: 180
  deviation: 1
wheelspeed-levearm-meters_sensorframe:
  x: 0.0
  y: 0.0
  z: 0.0
  deviation: 0.1
output:
  protocol: sbp
  type: tcp-server
  port: 55555
  max-conns: 10
```