General-purpose "EXFOR-driver": tasks, approach and implementation

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Before any development

Steps to go.

- 1. Understand/formulate problem and possibly task(s)
- 2. Three questions to answer:
 - a) What already exists and can be used?
 - b) What is wrong now?
 - c) What do we want to achieve? (define ideal goal)
- 3. Preparations:
 - a) discuss/define main ideas, concept and possible technologies
 - b) study and test technologies, select technology
- 4. Plan: split problem to tasks/sub-tasks, define dates
- 5. Implementation: development loop

Recent tendencies in ND

1. More Python

- 2. More JSON for data exchange, operations and storage
- 3. More "open source" for codes and data files, more Git
- 4. Many EXFOR parsers and utility-codes in Python

What is wrong now?

EXFOR code systems:

- 1. Existing codes: Fortran: 2, C: 1, Java:2, Python: 6
- 2. Fortran, C, Java codes: functioning long time, well tested, comprehensive, advanced functionality produce C5, X5, JSON, XML, X4Pro accessible via Web-GUI and API with Python-examples, but difficult to extend for new tasks by new people
- 3. Most of the systems were built for specific purposes
- 4. Systems are built independently without common approach
- 5. Some codes are very large and specialized
- 6. Python codes not yet cover all EXFOR data types and advance tasks (SG50, SG54)

Important

There is no general-purpose, low-level, simple "EXFOR-driver" which can be used as common basis for other software built on top of it

1. Translation EXFOR to JSON.

Tasks, basic principles, current limits

Tasks for EXFOR parser:

- 1. Step-1: small, general-purpose, low-level EXFOR parser (X4-Driver); not connected to Dictionaries
- 2. To be extended in near future by a new functionality
- *3. To be able translate EXFOR to JSON and back*
- 4. Should work on any EXFOR file from single ENTRY to full Master file
- 5. Should allow sequential parsing of a file and full-file parsing to DOM (document object model)
- 6. *Q*: Should work with old EXFOR files? (support VECTOR-COMMON formalism)

Basic principles:

- 1. Languages: Python and JavaScript*
- 2. Based on OOP (Object Oriented Programming), i.e. classes/objects (structures with methods)
- 3. JSON is produced from an object by a method in a class
- 4. Every class in single file with self-test

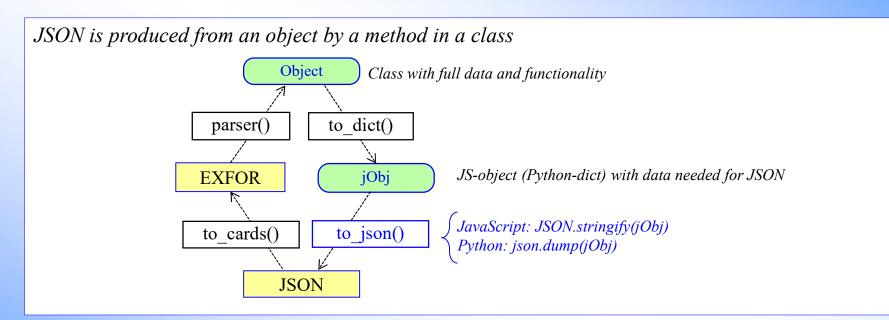
* Structures and algorithms are based on existing X4-Java codes

Current limitations:

- 1. Work on valid EXFOR file, i.e. now not oriented to work with incorrect EXFOR files
- 2. Requires ENTRY+ENDENTRY lines (Q: change to SUBENT+ENDSUBENT?)

About "basic principles" Why OOP?

Object Oriented Programming using classes/objects having data structures with methods: preparing for further extensions beyond the task "translate EXFOR to JSON"



Every class in single file with self-test this is how I was writing X4java package, keeping tests inside class-file

General approach

Having experience with programming EXFOR, CINDA, Dictionaries, ENDF, ENSDF-Editor in Java + JSON + JavaScript/Html, I decided to try to rewrite basic low-level part of parsers in Python and JavaScript and see how difficult it would be.

2. Technologies and current implementation

JSON-Tree Editor (2024-2025)

- 1. Initial main goal: develop/discuss JSON formats of nuclear data
- 2. Language: JavaScript; works in Web-Browser locally and remotely
- 3. Presents any JSON file as interactive tree
- 4. Provides specialized view for data in X5, ENDF, ENSDF, NSR, IBANDL, MyEnsdf, etc.
- 5. Provides "classic" operations: edit/delete/move/copy/paste text and nodes, new/open/save files, undo/redo, history of operations, return back to any step, etc.

EXFOR-CINDA-X4TOC5 Dictionary parser (2024)

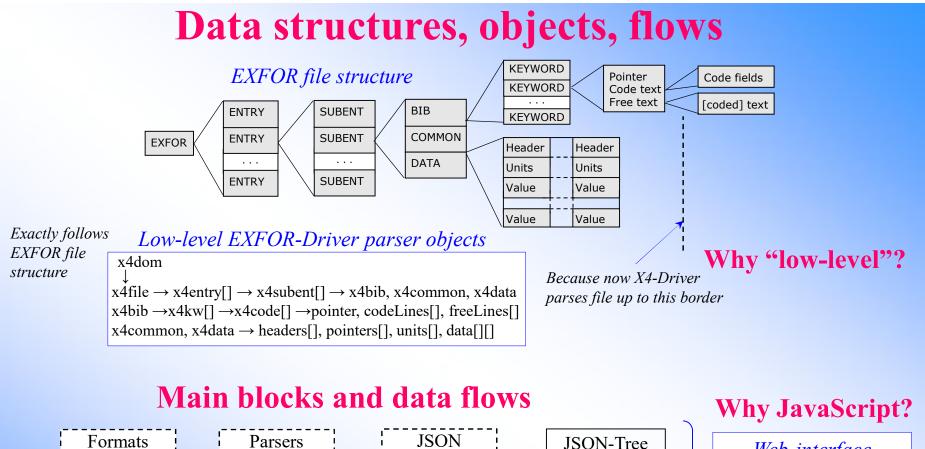
- 1. Language: Python
- 2. Using elements of meta-programming describing input format
- *3. Parsing Dictionaries to classes/objects (~clone of x4dicts.java reproducing functionality)*
- 4. Production of JSON file for whole Dictionary release + internal X4toC5 Dictionaries

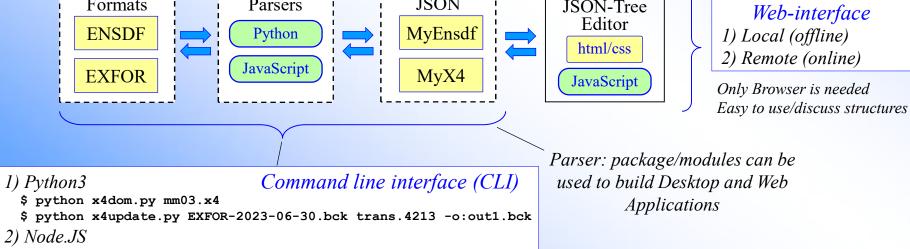
ENSDF parser (2024)

- 1. Languages: Python and JavaScript using myMeta-programming approach
- 2. Translating ENSDF file to JSON strictly according to ENSDF-Manual
- 3. Translating JSON to ENSDF and comparison with original
- 4. Web interface (JS only): ENSDF <=> JSON => JSON-Tree Editor
- 5. Command line interface (CLI): Python only

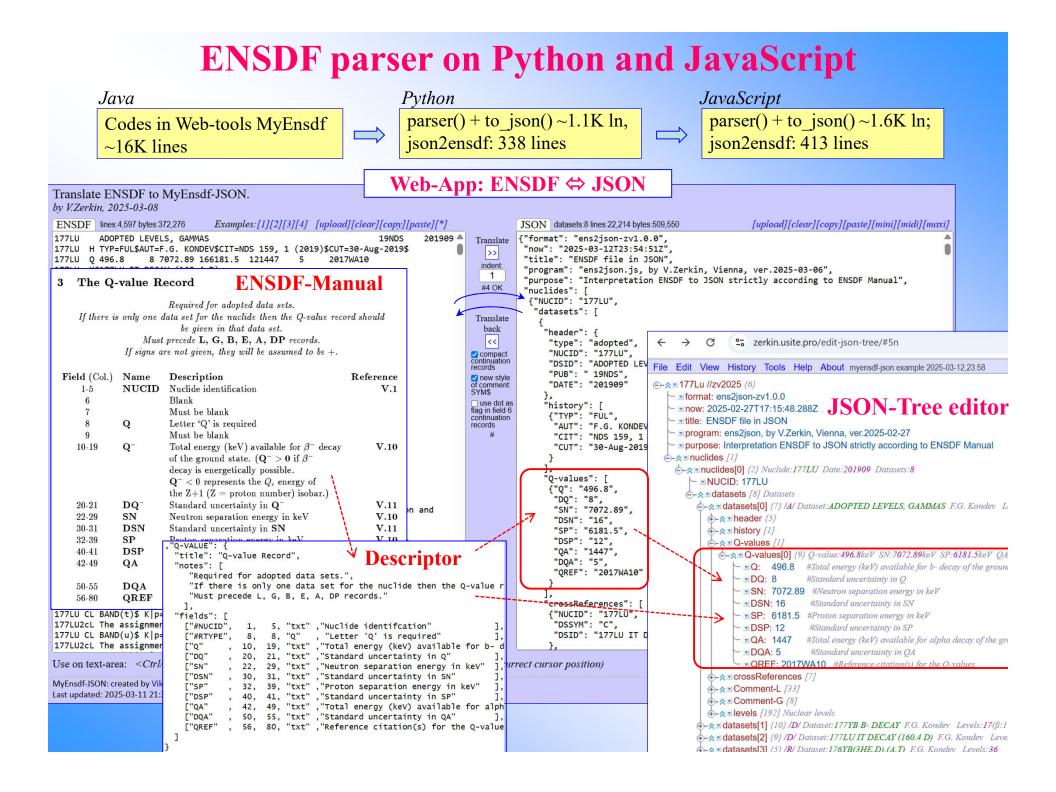
Low-level EXFOR parser: x4py, x4js (2025)

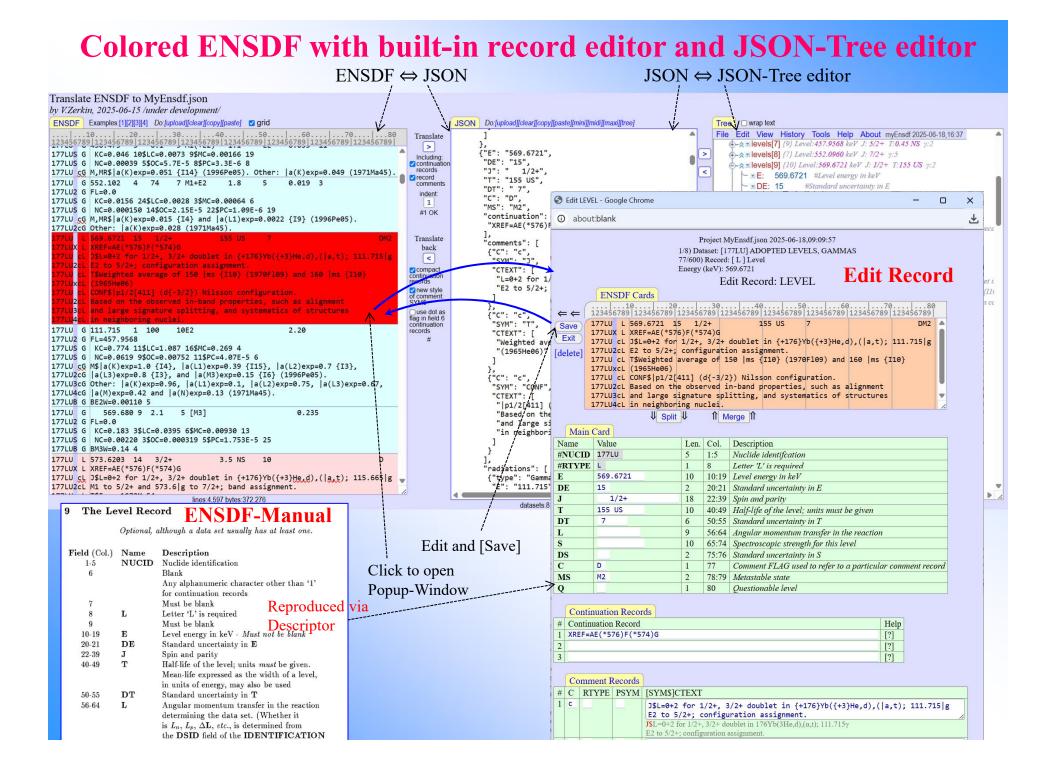
- 1. Implemented on Python and JavaScript
 - 1) Python3. Package x4py: 1.1K lines (10 files, 70-200 lines each)
 - 2) JavaScript-ES5. Module x4dom.js (1K lines), json2x4cards/csv (600 lines)
- 2. Translating EXFOR text to JSON
- 3. Translating JSON to EXFOR and CSV
- 4. Web interface via Web-browser (online, offline): EXFOR <=> JSON => JSON-Tree Editor
- 5. Command line interface (CLI): Python and Node.JS



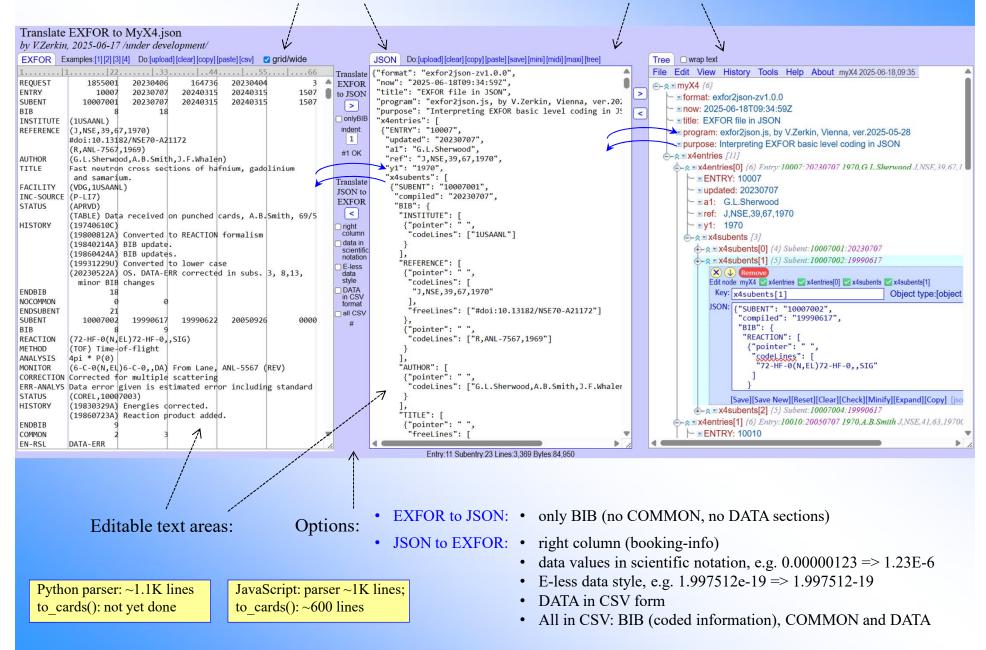


\$ node x4tojs1 mm03.x4

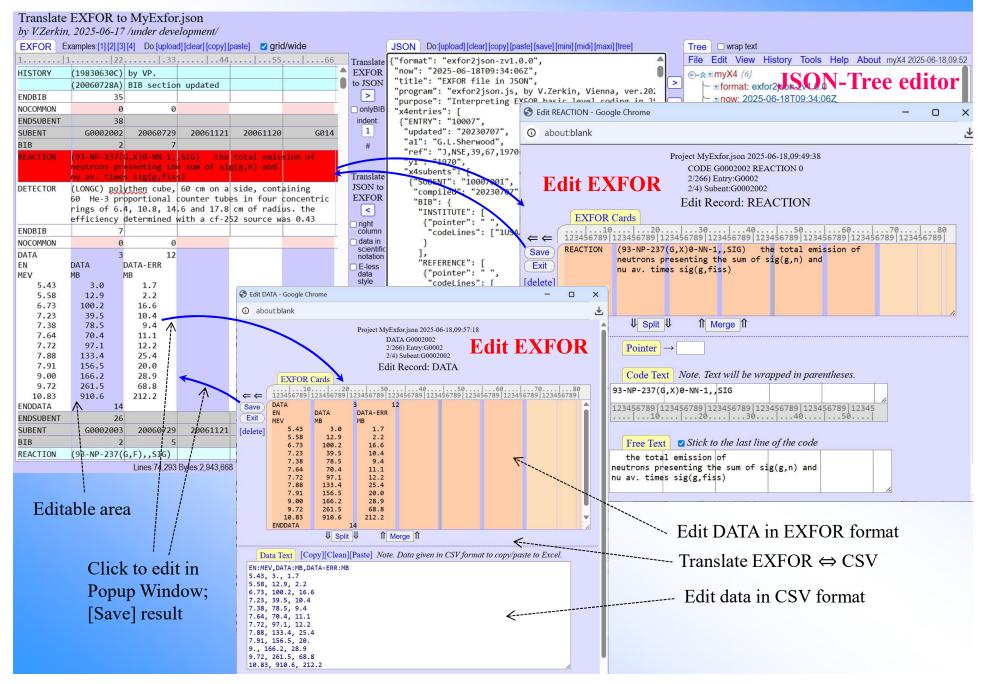




Translate EXFOR to MyX4.json via Web interface EXFOR ⇔ JSON → JSON ⇔ JSON-Tree editor



Colored EXFOR with built-in editors



Why CSV for DATA inside EXFOR?

Original EXFOR: 3 lines per data point

| | | | 1 | - | | | | | | |
|------------|--|----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| STATUS | (TABLE) Table V of Phys.Rev.C81(2010)064604, 23114002 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Appendix B of Sage's thesis (micro correlation) HISTORY (20130924A) On. ERR-ANALYS, COVARIANCE etc. | | | | | | | | | |
| HISTORY | | 23114002 | 83 | | | | | | | |
| ENDBIB | | 81 | | | | 23114002 | 84 | | | |
| COMMON | | 4 | 3 ERR-6 | | | 23114002 | 85 | | | |
| ERR-3 | RR-3 ERR-4 ERR-5 | | | | | 23114002 | 86 | | | |
| PER-CENT | PER-CENT | PER-CENT | PER-CENT | | | 23114002 | 87 | | | |
| 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 3. | | | 23114002 | 88 | | | |
| ENDCOMMON | | 3 | 0 | | | 23114002 | 89 | | | |
| DATA | | 13 | 9 | | | 23114002 | 90 | | | |
| EN | EN-ERR | DATA | ERR-T | MONIT-ERR | ERR-1 | 23114002 | 91 | | | |
| ERR-2 | ERR-7 | ERR-8 | MISC1 | MISC2 | MISC3 | 23114002 | 92 | | | |
| MISC4 | | | | | | 23114002 | 93 | | | |
| MEV | MEV | MB | PER-CENT | PER-CENT | PER-CENT | 23114002 | 94 | | | |
| PER-CENT | PER-CENT | PER-CENT | NO-DIM | NO-DIM | NO-DIM | 23114002 | 95 | | | |
| NO-DIM | | | | | | 23114002 | 96 | | | |
| 8.34 | 0.15 | 96.8 | 6.5 | 1.9 | 5. | 23114002 | 97 | | | |
| 1. | 0.9 | | 0.9974 | 0.9925 | 1. | 23114002 | 98 | | | |
| 1. | | | | | | 23114002 | 99 | | | |
| 9.15 | 0.15 | 162.9 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 4. | 23114002 | 100 | | | |
| 1. | 0.6 | | 1.0731 | 1.3117 | 1. | 23114002 | 101 | | | |
| 1. | | | | | | 23114002 | 102 | | | |
| 13.33 | 0.15 | 241.8 | 4.6 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 23114002 | 103 | | | |
| 1. | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.9168 | 0.8288 | 1. | 23114002 | 104 | | | |
| 1. | | | | | | 23114002 | 105 | | | |
| 16.1 | 0.15 | 152.4 | 4.6 | 2. | 2.1 | 23114002 | 106 | | | |
| 1. | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.0749 | 1.2335 | 1. | 23114002 | 107 | | | |
| 1. | | | | | | 23114002 | 108 | | | |
| 17.16 | 0.03 | 116.1 | 4.4 | 2. | 1.5 | 23114002 | 109 | | | |
| 1. | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.9987 | 0.9878 | 0.998 | 23114002 | 110 | | | |
| 0.997 | | 0.0 | | | 0.000 | 23114002 | 111 | | | |
| 17.9 | 0.1 | 105.7 | 4.4 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 23114002 | 112 | | | |
| 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.969 | 0.933 | 0.998 | 23114002 | 113 | | | |
| 0.997 | ••• | 0.0 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 23114002 | 114 | | | |
| 19.36 | 0.15 | 89.5 | 8.2 | 3.1 | 6.3 | 23114002 | 115 | | | |
| 2. | 0.6 | 1.3 | 1.0061 | 1.0157 | 0.941 | 23114002 | 116 | | | |
| 0.926 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 1.0001 | 1.0157 | 0.341 | 23114002 | 117 | | | |
| 19.95 | 0.07 | 102.1 | 5.8 | 4.1 | 1.4 | 23114002 | 118 | | | |
| 1. | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.9822 | 0.9433 | 0.922 | 23114002 | 119 | | | |
| 0.891 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.9022 | 0.9435 | 0.522 | 23114002 | 120 | | | |
| 20.61 | 0.04 | 77.9 | 8.8 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 23114002 | 121 | | | |
| 1.6 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.9938 | 0.982 | 0.885 | 23114002 | 122 | | | |
| 0.832 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.3338 | 0.902 | 0.005 | 23114002 | 122 | | | |
| ENDDATA | | 33 | 0 | | | 23114002 | 123 | | | |
| ENDSUBENT | | .23 | 0 | | | 231140029 | | | | |
| LABOODDANI | | | - | | | _31140023 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

- EXFOR with DATA and COMMON sections presented in CSV form (including headers, units, pointers coded in one line) is fully equivalent to EXFOR
- compact, clearer, easy to observe and make copy/paste
- better if we need significantly extend number of partial uncertainties (may be needed for SG54 curated data)

Largest EXFOR Entry: 14508

- with right-column: 94MB 100%
- without right-column: 51MB 54%
- with DATA in CSV: 31MB 33%

DATA in CSV form (comma separated values):

| STATUS | (TABLE) Table V of | | | 23114002 | 81 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|--------------|--------|
| | Appendix B | of Sage's | thesis (micro correlation |)23114002 | 82 |
| HISTORY | (20130924A) On. ER | R-ANALYS, C | OVARIANCE etc. | 23114002 | 83 |
| ENDBIB | 81 | | | 23114002 | 84 |
| COMMON | 4 | 3 | | 23114002 | 85 |
| #h:23114002 | : COMMON, ERR-3: PER- | CENT, ERR-4: | PER-CENT, ERR-5: PER-CENT, E | RR-6:PER-CE | NT |
| #,1.2,0.1,0 | .3,3 | | | | |
| ENDCOMMON | 3 | 0 | | 23114002 | 86 |
| DATA | 13 | 9 | | 23114002 | 87 |
| #h:23114002 | :DATA, EN:MEV, EN-ER | R:MEV,DATA: | MB, ERR-T: PER-CENT, MONIT-E | RR: PER-CENT | ,ERR-1 |
| #,8.34,0.15 | ,96.8,6.5,1.9,5,1, | 0.9,,0.9974 | ,0.9925,1,1 | | |
| <mark>#,9.15,0.15</mark> | ,162.9,5.7,1.9,4,1 | ,0.6,,1.073 | <mark>1,1.3117,1,1</mark> | | |
| #,13.33,0.1 | 5,241.8,4.6,1.6,2. | 5,1,0.4,0.3 | ,0.9168,0.8288,1,1 | | |
| #,16.1,0.15 | ,152.4,4.6,2,2.1,1 | ,0.6,0.3,1. | 0749,1.2335,1,1 | | |
| #,17.16,0.0 | 3,116.1,4.4,2,1.5, | 1,0.6,0.3,0 | .9987,0.9878,0.998,0.997 | | |
| #,17.9,0.1, | 105.7,4.4,2.2,1.3, | 0.7,0.7,0.3 | ,0.969,0.933,0.998,0.997 | | |
| #,19.36,0.1 | 5,89.5,8.2,3.1,6.3 | ,2,0.6,1.3, | 1.0061,1.0157,0.941,0.926 | | |
| #,19.95,0.0 | 7,102.1,5.8,4.1,1. | 4,1,0.6,1.4 | ,0.9822,0.9433,0.922,0.89 | 1 | |
| #,20.61,0.0 | 4,77.9,8.8,5.4,5.7 | ,1.6,0.6,1. | 4,0.9938,0.982,0.885,0.83 | 2 | |
| ENDDATA | 10 | 0 | , | 23114002 | 88 |
| ENDSUBENT | 99 | 0 | | 2311400299 | 999 |
| | | | | | |

EXFOR DATA-CSV exported to EXCEL:

| | | А | В | C | D | E | F | G | Н | 1 I | J | K | L | M | N |
|---|---|------------------|--------|------------|---------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| - | 1 | #h:23114002:DATA | EN:MEV | EN-ERR:MEV | DATA:MB | ERR-T:PER-CENT | MONIT-ERR:P | ERR-1:PER | ERR-2:PER | RERR-7:PER | ERR-8:PER | MISC1:NO-DIM | MISC2:NO | MISC3:NO-D | MISC4:NO- |
| ć | 2 | # | 8.34 | 0.15 | 96.8 | 6.5 | 1.9 | 5 | 1 | 0.9 | | 0.9974 | 0.9925 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | # | 9.15 | 0.15 | 162.9 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 4 | 1 | 0.6 | | 1.0731 | 1.3117 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | # | 13.33 | 0.15 | 241.8 | 4.6 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 1 | . 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.9168 | 0.8288 | 1 | 1 |
| - | 5 | # | 16.1 | 0.15 | 152.4 | 4.6 | 2 | 2.1 | 1 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.0749 | 1.2335 | 1 | 1 |
| (| 5 | # | 17.16 | 0.03 | 116.1 | 4.4 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.9987 | 0.9878 | 0.998 | 0.997 |
| | 7 | # | 17.9 | 0.1 | 105.7 | 4.4 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.969 | 0.933 | 0.998 | 0.997 |
| 8 | 3 | # | 19.36 | 0.15 | 89.5 | 8.2 | 3.1 | 6.3 | 2 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 1.0061 | 1.0157 | 0.941 | 0.926 |
| 9 |) | # | 19.95 | 0.07 | 102.1 | 5.8 | 4.1 | 1.4 | 1 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.9822 | 0.9433 | 0.922 | 0.891 |
| 1 | 0 | # | 20.61 | 0.04 | 77.9 | 8.8 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.9938 | 0.982 | 0.885 | 0.832 |

Command line interface: tests, validation, utilities.

```
$ python -B EnsDom.py 177LU.ens
                                                                                  +----+
                                                                                                                                      EXFOR
$ python -B EnsJson2Cards.py 177LU.ens.json
                                                                                            Update EXFOR files.
$ ens2flag6 177LU.ens > 177LU.ens.cmp
                                                                                    Program x4update.py ver.2024-11-13
$ ens2flag6 177LU.ens.json.ens > 177LU.ens.json.ens.cmp
                                                                                          by V.Zerkin, Vienna, 2024
$ mycmp 177LU.ens.cmp 177LU.ens.json.ens.cmp
                                                                                       ------+
$ cat ens2flag6.c
                                                                  Program: x4update.py
                                                                                                                  x4update.py – update, split and merge
  #include <ctype.h>
                                                                  Package "x4py" version: 1.0.0
  #include <stdio.h>
                                                                  Running: 2025-06-18 21:29:50
                                                                                                                  EXFOR files, maintain Master file
  #include <string.h>
  #define LSTR
                                                                  Help.
                 520
                                                                                                                  without intermediate files:
  char str[LSTR];
                                                                  Purpose: merge/update EXFOR files
  int main(int argc,char **argv)
                                                                  Functions:
                                                                                                                  using "x4py" package
                                                                    * standalone maintenance of EXFOR Master file
      char ch, *ss, *fgets();
      FILE *in;
                                                                    * join/merge EXFOR files using latest Subentries
      char *infile;
                                                                    * cut EXFOR text after 66th column and right-trim strings
      int i:
                                                                    * add right column after 66th column to EXFOR text
      if (argc<2)
         printf("At least one parameter needed!\n");
                                                                    * sort Entries in EXFOR file
          return(0);
                                                                    * supporting NOENTRY (to exclude Entry from output)
                                                                    * split EXFOR file(s) by ENTRY and store one file for one Entry
      argv++; argc--;
      if (argc>0) {infile=*argv++; argc--;}
                                                                  Algorithm:
      in=fopen(infile,"r");
                                                                    * program in the loop on command line arguments:
      if (in==NULL) return(-1);
                                                                      - reads EXFOR file (Backup/Master/TRANS or any other) into buffer
      for (i=0; ;i++) {
                                                                      - inserts/overwrites next Entry/Subentry into the buffer
          ss=fgets(str,LSTR-1,in);
         if (ss==NULL) break;
                                                                      - accepts options and formatting parameters
          if (strlen(str)>6) {
                                                                    * output content of buffer to new EXFOR file or directory
             ch=str[5];
if (ch!=' ') str[5]='.';
                                                                  Usage: $ python [{flag}] x4update.py {[option|file]}
                                                                    * flag: see all Python flags: $ python --help
         printf("%s",str);
                                                                                don't write .pyc files on import
                                                                      -B
                                                                    * option:
 }
                                                                      -help
                                                                                print this help-text and exit (also --help)
     1) Translate ENSDF to MyEnsdf.json
                                                                      -h:<hdr> set header-line in output file (default: -t:REQUEST)
                                                                      -n1:<N1> set N1 in header-line (default: -n1:777)
    2) Translate MyEnsdf.json to ENSDF
                                                                      -wide
                                                                                add to EXFOR file right column (default: cut after 66-col.)
                                                                      -o:<file> write final buffer to new EXFOR file
    3) Modify flag-6 to "." for continuation records
                                                                      -d:<dir> split final buffer by Entry to directory structure
    4) Compare initial and finel ENSDF
                                                                      -sdd
                                                                                set date of modification by Entry.N2 to <dir>
                                                                      -i:<Ent> include Entries starting with <Ent>
                                                                      -x:<Ent> exclude Entries starting with <Ent>
                                                                      -v:<show> verbose - show details of the process
              G:\projects\zerkin\pdev\x4dev\ens1\177LU.ens.cmp
                                                                    * file: file name should not start with sign "-"
 177LU G
            569,680 9 2.1
                            5 [M3]
                                                         0.235
                                                                      <file>
                                                                                path of an EXFOR file (can be relative or absolute)
 177LU. G FL=0.0
                                                                  Examples:
 177LU. G KC=0.183 3$LC=0.0395 6$MC=0.00930 13
                                                                    1) load Master file, update by Trans-file(s), write new Master file
                                                                       $ python3 -B x4update.py EXFOR-2023-06-30.bck trans.4213 -o:out1.bck -h:LIB
 177LU. G NC=0.00220 3$0C=0.000319 5$PC=1.753E-5 25
                                                                    2) insert/replace EXFOR Entries into TRANS file, verbose (trace of the processing)
 177LU, G BM3W=0.14 4
 177LU L 573.6203 14
                        3/2+
                                                                       $ python3 -B x4update.py trans.4213 mm03.x4 -wide -h:TRANS -n1:4213 -o:trans.4213 -v:1
                                       3.5 NS
                                                 10
                                                                    3) split EXFOR file into sub-directoriess by Entries, set dir-dates by Entry:N2
                                                                       $ python3 -B x4update.py EXFOR-2023-05-23.bck -wide -d:x4all -sdd
        G:\projects\zerkin\pdev\x4dev\ens1\177LU.ens.json.ens.cmp
                                                                    4)
                                                                       join EXFOR files from Area-4 to single file (use with bash or in MinGW/MSYS)
                                                                       $ python3 -B x4update.py x4all/4/*/*.x4 -o:area4.x4 -wide
 177LU G
            569.680 9 2.1
                            5 [M3]
                                                      0.235
                                                                    5) merge EXFOR files, filter Entries: include 41* and exclude 414*, output Entries to
 177LU. G FL=0.0$KC=0.183 3$LC=0.0395 6$MC=0.00930 13$NC=0.00220 3
                                                                  out1/
 177LU. G OC=0.000319 5$PC=1.753E-5 25$BM3W=0.14 4
                                                                       $ python -B x4update.py trans.4213 mm03.x4 trans.e150 -d:out1 -i:41 -x:414
                                                                    6) print help message and exit
```

\$ python3 -B x4update.py

177LU L 573.6203 14 3/2+

3.5 NS

10

Concluding remarks

Technical:

Step-1. Low-level EXFOR-Driver. Done:

- 1. small library of classes written in Python and JavaScript
- 2. needs only valid EXFOR file/text (Dictionaries are not required)
- 3. implements sequential and direct access using DOM
- 4. works with small (one Entry) and large files: retrieved/assembled/Trans/Prelim/Master
- 5. can translate EXFOR to JSON and backward from JSON to EXFOR and CSV
- 6. having command-line and Web interface for translation with various options and operations
- 7. integrated with Web-App "JSON-Tree editor"

Possible plans:

- 1. Step-2: classes for specific coding of essential BIB-keywords
- 2. Step-3: connection to EXFOR-Dictionaries
- 3. Step-4: datasets, variables and computational values
- 4. etc. ... finally reproducing functionality of x4java/x4pro/c5/x5

Conclusions/Proposal/Question:

- 1. Several EXFOR parsers and converters to different versions of JSON exist
- 2. There is no EXFOR-JSON format agreed in NRDC and recommended for end-users (X5json?)
- 3. Recommended/stable/tested EXFOR-Driver is missing as starting tool for users who want to use original EXFOR instead of Web/X4Pro/X4Pro/C5/X4+ (e.g. WPEC-SG50/SG54).
- 4. If supported by NRDC, a common/generic low-level EXFOR-Driver on Python/JavaScript can be discussed in detailed, published as open-source product, further developed and possibly recommended for SG54 and other users' communities
- 5. Are NRDC, NNDC, SG54 and other nuclear data communities interested in ND-JSON-Tree Editor? If yes, conclusion and support are needed.

Thank you.

Citing of the materials of this presentation should be done with proper acknowledgement of the author