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UPDATING AND USING THE INTERNATIONAL NON-NEUTRON EXPERIMENTAL
NUCLEAR DATA BASE IN "GENERALIZED EXFOR" FORMAT

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(Translated from Nuclear Constants 2(56) 1984, pp. 3,
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ABSTRACT

A software system for the automatic preparation of non-formalized textual information for the international exchange of nuclear data in the "Generalized Exchange Format (EXFOR)" is described. The "Generalized EXFOR" format is briefly outlined and data are given on the size of the international non-neutron experimental data base in this format.

The continual increase in the cost of experiments in all branches of science due to the need to investigate different phenomena has made it appear desirable to collect and organize the available information and to extract reliable data from it for use in the various spheres of science and technology[1].

The process whereby communication takes place between people involved in the processing of quantitative information can be seen as having four consecutive stages:

- Obtaining and publication of data by the research worker himself;
- Collection, analysis and comparison of scientific information obtained by different methods and compilation of the necessary tabular, evaluated and standard reference data;
- Dissemination of these data in a form convenient for the user;

- Use of the tabular, evaluated and standard reference data.

It would be excessively impractical and expensive for each research worker or even for each laboratory to compile their own set of data themselves. A link thus needs to be established between those who originally obtain the data and those who use them, by setting up a system for the review, evaluation and compilation of data tables by qualified experts. To achieve these aims for the field of nuclear physics an international network of centres was set up in 1964 on the initiative of the Nuclear Data Section of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) [2]. The main tasks of the centres are to collect experimental information, to evaluate the data obtained in experiments and to disseminate these data. The centres are now regularly exchanging nuclear data bases by means of magnetic tapes. The data are recorded on tape in accordance with international standards governing the flagging and structure of magnetic tapes. The standards also lay down rules for structuring data blocks in various formats. The standardization of data in terms of entry formats facilitates the elimination of linguistic difficulties in data exchange and also makes it relatively easy for centres with different data processing equipment to convert and interpret the data they receive and to use them to solve various problems. When data bases are transferred on magnetic tape from one country to another, this constitutes an exchange of scientific or technical information on an international scale which enhances the scientific and technical potential of the countries involved in the international network of centres. In addition, this type of exchange makes possible various different types of information retrieval and automatic updating of the centre's data base; as a result, the efforts expended are many times less, since totally formalized data are used.

This paper considers questions relating to the updating of the international non-neutron experimental nuclear data base in "Generalized EXFOR" format (the EXFOR data base) with non-formalized primary information and discusses the way this is done at the Centre for Nuclear Structure and Reaction Data (CAJaD) of the USSR State Committee on the Utilization of Atomic Energy [3]. However, the authors believe that it is worthwhile first

to provide some basic information on the international format called "Generalized EXFOR" (GE). This format is an artificial information retrieval language designed for "factographic" description of physics experiments with subsequent retrieval and processing of data for the synthesis of new information (this being a typical characteristic of logical information systems). GE can be described as a format which provides a compact means of recording numerical experimental values and physics information (needed for understanding the experiment and interpreting the data) and which is well suited to be used on computers for the international exchange of experimental nuclear data.

The GE format is now widely used because it is flexible and relatively easy to adapt for the description of results from any type of nuclear physics experiment. Many years of experience with it have shown that, by modifying the dictionaries, this format can be used to describe practically all experiments involving dependences of the continuous type, such as infra-red spectra, characteristics of radioactive transformations, product yields of chemical interactions in binary reactions, etc. The structure of the GE format has been made such that the range of data compiled in it can be extended. Historically, the development of the format began with the compilation of information on neutron-induced reactions [4]. Later, as a result of the accumulation of experience and the expansion of international co-operation, data from experiments on nuclear reactions induced by charged particles, and subsequently also by photons, were increasingly compiled as well [5]. Recently the GE format has been applied to atomic and molecular data, and the Institute of Physics and Energy (FEI) in Obninsk has adapted it for thermal physics data.

The EXFOR data base on charged particle reactions is being disseminated by the following major centres (which are responsible for the selection, compilation and dissemination of nuclear data information in a defined service area):

- CAJaD, which services the USSR;

- The United States National Nuclear Data Centre at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, which services the United States and Canada;
- The IAEA Nuclear Data Section (Austria), which services centres in Eastern Europe, Asia, South and Central America, Australia and New Zealand;
- The Centre for Nuclear Energy Documentation, which services the Federal Republic of Germany[*];
- The data bank of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) in Saclay (France), which disseminates data to all member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) apart from the United States and Canada.

Each centre can compile data measured outside the area which it services but may transmit to other centres only data from its own area. Thus, each of the centres is building up an international library of experimental nuclear data in machine-readable form. In compiling new experimental works for inclusion in the data base, preference is given (due account being taken of the requirements of each particular centre) to those containing data on the most important elements and reactions. The activities of the German centre and of CAJaD mainly relate to the compilation of works on integral nuclear data on charged particles used for activation analysis and isotope production. The United States and IAEA centres are concerned with the compilation of charged particle nuclear data on the basis of reactions of interest as neutron sources.

[*] The Karlsruhe Charged Particle Nuclear Data Group (KACHAPAG), which officially belonged to this centre and was concerned with the compilation of cross-section data for charged particles, ceased to exist on 1 January 1982. However, a data base consisting of 200 works compiled by the Group was included in the international data base on charged particle reactions.

As has already been mentioned, the exchange of data between centres makes it necessary for the content of the information to be standardized. In the GE format this is achieved by means of keywords, i.e. system and information identifiers and specially developed codes (Annex 1). The keywords and codes render the information "comprehensible" to the computer and ensure that the entry is sufficiently compact when the information is transmitted. At the same time the GE format can also be used to record any free text which describes important aspects of the experiment that need to be pointed out but which is unsuitable for encoding by accepted methods. Obviously, the requirement that the format should be flexible conflicts with the requirement of compactness. However, the strict rules for the GE format ensure that data can relatively easily be transformed from GE into fixed but compact entries which may be required for input into specially prepared formats for subsequent computations [6].

The requirement of compactness for data entry in GE format has led to the development of a set of dictionaries for describing various aspects of the results and of the conditions in which experiments are performed and also for giving additional (e.g. bibliographical) information about them. This set of dictionaries is used to compile data, to verify the codes employed in syntactic and semantic checking programs and also to reconstruct and extend free text in such a way that the compiled text can easily be read by human beings. The IAEA's Nuclear Data Section is responsible for the co-ordination and feasibility of including new codes in the format dictionaries and also for their consistency with codes agreed earlier. The Section regularly sends out additional and/or updated dictionaries to the other centres.

Reference [7] contains the currently agreed set of definitions, conventions and rules for coding and international exchange of data in GE format. This manual has two parts. Part One ("EXFOR Systems Manual") is devoted to the description of the format and its structure, to the rules for the coding of nuclear data and to international links for the exchange of information in GE format. This part provides basic material both for physicists compiling nuclear data and for programmers preparing software for

processing information recorded in GE format (for the EXFOR system). Part Two ("LEXFOR") contains information of specific relevance for physicists. Here, the coding rules and code definitions, the physical meaning of the codes and their areas of application are spelled out. The GE format is continually being developed in such a way that a maximum of standardization to facilitate automated computer processing of data is combined with the possibility of including new types of data and a wide variety of information on experiments. The format is being developed in two main directions: (1) improvement of the coding rules to make their interpretation unambiguous, which is particularly important when the format is used for different applications (compilation of data on neutron, non-neutron and photonuclear reactions); and (2) extension of the GE format dictionary sets and their codes (as a consequence of the first type of development).

Practically any data on the experimental device, on the measurement method and on the processing of the measurements not only can but also should be recorded in GE format, since the data may not be used immediately after publication or may be applied to reach conclusions which had not even occurred to the author as a possibility. The space in the average journal article is limited, so not all details of an experiment can be described. In this case the magnetic tape serves as a supplement to the journal article, storing for subsequent analysis details which might appear superfluous to an editor or referee. But all these "insignificant" details are known only to the author of the publication. They will appear on an exchange tape if the entry is prepared not by the compiling physicist working at the centre but by the author himself. In addition, the format is intended for the compilation of data not only on published experimental work but also on preliminary results

The principles for coding the results of experimental research are as follows: if an experimental work (publication) is coded in accordance with GE formatting rules, it will be recorded on an international exchange tape which will usually contain a number of compiled works (entries). Within an entry, sub-entries are identified in such a way that each of them contains information relating, for example, to the same type of reaction for a given

nuclide. The first sub-entry of the compiled work always contains information which is common to all subsequent sub-entries (cf. Annex 1). Each sub-entry apart from the first can have up to three sections: bibliographical information (BIB), common data and data table. The structure of the exchange tape is shown in Fig. 1.

For experimenters, evaluators, developers and other users the following are of the greatest interest (cf. Annex 1):

- The results of measurements and calculations represented in tabular form with columns for independent variables, errors, and so on (recorded in the DATA section);
- Numerical data which are common to the whole table of a given sub-entry (recorded in the COMMON section);
- Numerical information which is common throughout the given entry (always recorded in the COMMON section of the first sub-entry).

The tables of experimental numerical data cannot be interpreted and used meaningfully without accompanying textual information on the data, bibliographical references, error analysis, normalization and so on. This information is recorded in the BIB section. Each piece of descriptive information is identified using information identifiers such as TITLE, MONITOR or REACTION. Any information identifier is described by an object-characteristic structure [8,9] in which its name determines the designation of an object whose properties appear in the form of a whole finite set of characteristics (Table 1). In accordance with the formatting rules the characteristics are entered in a certain sequence with appropriate syntax. The values of the characteristics are represented by codes or numerical values. For example, the information identifier DETECTOR is associated with codes such as (GELI) and (SCIN) and the METHOD keyword with codes such as (TOF) and (COINC), meaning that measurements were made with a germanium-lithium or a scintillation detector using the time-of-flight or

the coincidence method. In addition, any coded information can be supplemented by free text.

All numerical data are shown under data headings (for example, DATA, EN) and in data units (such as EV, MB). Some data tables can have a more complex structure and there may be several of them for different reactions in one sub-entry. In this case each reaction is linked with the corresponding column of the data table (the DATA section) by means of a pointer (cf. Annex 1) which is used for linking information from different sections.

The logical division of information on an exchange tape into entries, sub-entries and sections is performed by means of system identifiers (Fig. 2), each of which defines a data unit on the exchange tape (Table 2). In combinations with the prefixes NO and END, the system identifiers indicate:

- The beginning of a data unit (by the system identifier entry alone);
- The end of a data unit (by the prefix END preceding the system identifier);
- The omission of a data unit (by the prefix NO preceding the system identifier).

The length of a record on the tape is 80 characters, and each record has its own individual number, the record identifier (cf. Annex 1). This is entered in columns 67-80 and consists of five fields:

- 67: the centre identifier, showing the individual code of the centre transmitting the information to the network of centres;
- 68-71: the numerical identifier of the work, showing the accession number of the compiled publication;

- 72-74: the numerical identifier of the sub-entry, showing the accession number of the sub-entry in the entry;
- 75-79: the numerical identifier of sequential record numbering within a sub-entry;
- 80: the alter flag, indicating that records have been altered since the tape was last transmitted.

Use of the record identifier ensures that each record on the tape will have a unique reference which can readily be found. The structure of the record is such that it is easy to perform any data processing operation: retrieval, updating, input, deletion of records and so on.

One of the most important characteristics of the EXFOR data base is continual updating with new works. However, when new data are received it is necessary to check their reliability; otherwise users may lose confidence that there are no contradictions or errors. Only after evaluation for reliability can the updated data base be further used. At CAJaD this task is performed in two stages. The first consists in having the authors of the experiment prepare or check the text which is recorded in GE format and reflects not only the basic characteristics but also the details of the experiment. This measure is not merely desirable but essential, since errors may arise in the compilation of an article, especially in the preparation of data tables when the compiling physicist takes the data from figures. Moreover, the experiment must be described in such a way as to be reproducible, so the publication, and thus also the coded "factographic" description, must contain all the necessary information. The second stage for ensuring that data are reliable consists in making a computer identify syntactic and semantic errors which may have occurred in coding the publication and entering the "factographic" description into the computer. The development of computerized means of monitoring data is important, especially as an additional guarantee of reliability, since manual checking is somewhat laborious.

The structure of the GE format is such that many data processing operations can be automated and automation is being successfully introduced at the international centres. Such systems are generally developed on large computers with certain functions being partially entrusted to powerful minicomputers [10]. In certain cases it is desirable not to use large computer systems but small computers, for example in relatively small laboratories or in order to protect the confidentiality of work.

Each regional centre has particular computer system capabilities and user requirements and its own data transmission and storage system optimized for its own needs and capabilities [10-12]. The retrieval system of CAJaD for data processing operations is based on a small 1010B computer [13]. The principles of organization of the software are determined not only by the nature of the problems to be solved and by the design of the system components, but also in large measure by the configuration of the computer itself. Characteristic features of the 1010B are the small size of its internal memory (32 kilobytes) and direct-access memory (two 800 kilobyte minidisks) and its standardized software, which make it practically impossible to transfer the software of the EXFOR system developed at other international centres.

The development of a set of programs for the EXFOR system at CAJaD has been based on the principles and structure of the software for an information retrieval system developed at CAJaD to control large data files on magnetic tape in internal storage format. At the same time the operating system of the 1010B computer is interactive. This means that the EXFOR data base can be prepared and processed in interactive mode [14]. The computer is made to perform data "assembly" (coding) functions, functions for identifying the most frequently encountered errors and information storage operations at all stages of processing.

The set of programs for the EXFOR system developed and produced at CAJaD can be used on a small computer, within the limits of its capacity, to produce, maintain, store and exchange large data files recorded in the international GE format. The approach followed in developing the EXFOR

computer programs was to reduce the proportion of manual work at all stages of the data preparation and processing cycle (Fig. 3). To achieve this, the data preparation software must perform information input, monitoring, editing and updating functions which take the form of independent programs for the tasks to be performed at each stage of processing. The parameters prepared or stored by the programs of the previous processing stage for those of the following stage are transmitted under automatic control of the sequence in which the stages are performed in the computer. If necessary, this sequence can be interrupted. The operator can perform any stage in the sequence independently, but this significantly increases the amount of manual operations, thereby lowering the speed and quality of data processing.

The procedure established at CAJaD for adding to the EXFOR data base begins with the stage of preliminary analytical processing. This includes the review of Soviet and foreign publications on the subject in question, the identification of publications of interest for the data base and the preparation of a "factographic" description of the publication in the form of a secondary information document (SID). The special feature of this stage is the fact that it requires an "intellectual" conversion of primary, non-formalized information. The role of human beings in this stage is very important since it consists in extracting the semantic information (meaning) contained in the primary information document (PID). This work can be done only by a highly qualified person with a profound knowledge of the kind of information which needs to be stored in the experimental data base. This stage, which is also called the stage of pre-machine data processing (semantic and technical), is the most laborious one. The stage of preliminary analytical processing ends with the production of an SID, which is a manuscript version of the work coded in GE format. Some centres use pre-formatted entry of the SID on special forms, which ensures rigorous standardization in its composition. The form is completed in full conformity with the formatting rules. The manuscript version used at CAJaD, however, provides for the entry of semantic information only, but in such a way that its form will be comprehensible to the operator for input into the computer.

Any data input process involves the conversion of data to a form which can be accepted by the computer. The stage of SID input into the computer is one of the basic process components in the whole data preparation cycle. Input is through a visual display unit (VDU) screen using a special program. The strictness of the format is such that the process of data input can be automated and data can even be entered piecemeal in accordance with GE formatting rules. If data input is done not by the operator but by the staff concerned with the preliminary analytical processing, i.e. by the compiling physicist directly from the PID, the need for a manuscript version of the SID does not arise.

The sequence in which system and information identifiers are "assembled" (generated) is monitored by the input program and results from a dialogue between the operator and the computer. In one way or another, this involves specifying the sequence of execution of computer operations by means of "transactions" [*]. With this approach, SID input can commence practically without a detailed study of the instructions. The operator's answers will take the form of indications what the computer should do at any given moment. This makes it possible to avoid errors, thereby obviating the need for the operator to remember the data sequence. The operator must enter only the substantive part of the SID which is not determined unambiguously by the formatting rules.

During the operator/computer dialogue each line of formalized ENTRY text is displayed on the screen so that the operator can identify and, where necessary, correct errors in the line being assembled. This constitutes an

[*] Transmitted messages which initiate a particular type of operation in the computer.

important difference from systems using punched-card input, where the whole card has to be replaced when a symbol is entered incorrectly.

The program for SID input into the computer performs the following functions:

- It structures the data;
- It assembles information for maintaining the integrity of the record in international exchange;
- It checks that the input symbol is consistent with the format alphabet;
- It shows, in the appropriate part of the screen, errors committed by the operator;
- It stores the formalized ENTRY text on magnetic tape in the working library;
- It assigns to the ENTRY text the appropriate name in the catalogue of coded works;
- It instructs the alphanumeric printer to print out a sheet containing the formalized ENTRY text.

The operator/computer dialogue at the SID input stage begins with selection of the input mode, which determines the subsequent computer operations.

There are two SID input modes:

- Input of a new coded work;

- Addition of information from an SID to an ENTRY, the beginning of which has been stored in the working library under the appropriate name.

In this case, the input program ensures that the correct structure is maintained in the whole ENTRY when adding the new information and storing it in the working library.

In assembling the bibliographical section (BIB), automatic input of a text in the working library is possible from any position on the line. The operator must introduce into the line being assembled a special transaction enabling the program to call the name of this text. After receiving the correct name the program will "erase" the dialogue on the screen and perform the transaction specified, transferring the text in sequence from the working library to the ENTRY text, while complying with the transfer rules and recording all the necessary service routines. Text transfer can also end at any position on the line. The operator must either complete a line that has been begun or proceed to assemble a new line.

In assembling the COMMON and DATA sections the recording of numerical data is strictly standardized. Eleven characters are assigned to one value, i.e. there cannot be more than six columns in a line (80 characters). If the number of columns, which is determined by the number of data headings is greater, special formatting rules provide for the transfer of the values to the next line. For this reason the values entered by the operator must occupy particular positions in the line of a table. This depends not only on the structure of the data table but also on the format in which the data are recorded. Two formats are used: a decimal one when a decimal point is obligatory in the entry of the variable, and the so-called "E format" (analogous to that used in FORTRAN) when the variable must be placed in the right-hand spaces of the column. The program ensures that the GE formatting rules listed above are complied with, i.e. it checks the input values and their transcription in the appropriate positions and displays the correctly assembled line of the numerical data table on the screen.

The process of entering coded text can end either when the whole SID has been entered (in this case the code for ending the input process is a line with the system identifier ENENTRY) or after the next sub-entry has been entered (the ending code being the system identifier ENDSUBENT). In either case the text entered is stored in the working memory and assigned the appropriate name.

The ending codes for the input process determine the subsequent operating mode of the system. During input, codes for exceptional situations preventing the normal termination of the process may appear. In this case some response from the operator will be required. Procedures for handling exceptional situations are used only when the corresponding code has been found and the specific exceptional situation has been reported. The procedures can be followed either with or without a return to the program. In the latter case the operator changes to off-line sequential mode.

When the input process ends normally and the whole SID has been entered, the next stage, that of checking the data entered for correctness of the structure and for reliability, begins automatically. However, it is not possible to perform a strict check of the coded information without being sure that its structure is correct. In addition, the checking process is sequential in nature and requires a fairly large main memory and time for preparation of the checking program. For a complete reliability data check, therefore, it has been necessary to write special programs [16] with limited checking of the extent to which the formalized text is consistent with GE formatting rules and its codes.

Particular emphasis is placed on checking information for which coding is most complicated and for which demonstration of consistency with GE formatting rules by visual checking is laborious. Practical experience with checking programs at various centres has made it possible to identify the most frequent errors made in coding (Annex 2). The programs make a particularly careful check of those places in the ENTRY text where such errors are most likely.

Checking the ENTRY text for correctness of structure and reliability means identifying errors and ambiguities in both the external and the internal structure of the formalized text. Checking the external structure involves verifying its correct division into sub-entries and sections by analysing each such part in accordance with the necessary system identifier, the service routines for it, the numerical identification of lines, etc. The internal structure is checked by finding a given information identifier and following its coding rules (presence of obligatory components, appropriate syntax, consistency of brackets, checking of mnemonic codes) and also by fulfilling the requirements for the entry of numerical tables and quantities, verifying consistency of information between sections, and so on. Thus, syntactic and lexical analysis of the formalized ENTRY text is used to check the correctness of its structure and the reliability of the information in it.

For checking the reliability of data it is sufficient to ensure that the code used is in the relevant dictionary. The use of dictionary code files (without decoding them) is thus a sufficient condition for the operation of the checking program. The dictionary conversion program reads off the whole set of GE format dictionaries from the magnetic tape, files the dictionaries in accordance with the specified structure and, in a certain sector of the disk, enters a catalogue of dictionaries, taking as the address the beginning of the codes of each dictionary on the disk. The special arrangement of dictionary codes ensures economy of utilization of machine memory and - in the case of checking programs - reduces the code retrieval time to some extent by allowing direct access to a given dictionary and use of the method of key comparison for code retrieval.

The result of the operation of checking codes is a hard-copy log produced by an alphanumeric printer and containing information about the nature of the errors found and their locations. If an error has been found in the semantic part the author (the physicist who compiled the particular text) will be needed to correct it. An error of this type can either be corrected immediately by the compiling physicist of the centre or else the author of the publication must be consulted, in which case a printout of the

formalized ENTRY text with notes for further information is sent to the authors. Only after the authors have replied with their corrections and additions is the formalized ENTRY text corrected and edited. If an error which does not require in-depth elucidation is found, the operator corrects it, editing the ENTRY text with the help of an editing program. By means of this program, texts can conveniently be corrected from the VDU terminal keyboard: characters and lines can be deleted or introduced in the text, and various separate pieces of text can be joined together or sections of text split up.

During manual editing it is possible that the structure of the information record in the ENTRY text will be disturbed and that the entry will cease to be in conformity with GE formatting rules. The most common errors of this type are inconsistencies in line identification, in correct service routines for system identifiers and errors in the alphabet of characters entered during manual editing. The next stage is therefore performed by the automatic editing program, which corrects all errors committed in the manual editing of the formalized text in accordance with formatting rules.

The automatic editing program, after printing out the edited ENTRY text on the alphanumeric printer, performs the following functions:

- It replaces characters which are not consistent with the GE format alphabet by the sign ? (lines with such symbols are specially noted);
- It adds to the text a line with the information identifier HISTORY and automatically enters the date of editing in this line (the purpose of this operation is to indicate the "history" of preparation of the ENTRY text);
- It stores the formalized text in the working library, deleting its old name and assigning it the corresponding new one in the catalogue of coded works;

- It prints out the working library catalogue; and
- When the automatic editing process has finished, the syntactic and lexical analysis stage begins, i.e. the programs for checking the structure and reliability of the formalized ENTRY text are put into operation once again.

The stages of correction, editing (manual and automatic) and rechecking can be repeated until the formalized text no longer contains any errors violating the GE formatting rules. Only then is the ENTRY text recorded on the international exchange tape and in the EXFOR data base. The experimental non-neutron nuclear data base in GE format is at present available at CAJaD on six magnetic tapes - the same as the number of centres adding to it (Table 3).

This data base is being added to continually. The structure of entries of textual and numerical information is such that not only the process of data base maintenance but also that of information retrieval can be automated. The EXFOR data base is versatile. It is used by all centres for retrospective information retrieval and subsequent issue in both generalized form and without generalizations. It is also used directly for printed publications. For example, in 1979 the KACHAPAG group began to issue a multi-volume publication within the Physik Daten/Physics Data series containing data on the formation of radioactive isotopes in charged-particle reactions. These data were taken directly from the international exchange tape. The publication contains both bibliographic and "factographic" material which is updated as data are corrected and new measurement results appear. The United States National Nuclear Data Centre uses the EXFOR international data base when preparing annual collections of bibliographical data [17]. In the IAEA Nuclear Data Section, a program is being tried out which converts formatted data from the EXFOR data base into so-called "experimental data computation format" [6]. Taking data on cross-sections and angular and energy distributions, the program converts them into graphic form for comparison with the corresponding evaluated data from the ENDF/B

data base [18]. The intention is that in the future the "experimental data computation format" should be used to demonstrate the reliability of data submitted by authors of publications and also for evaluation purposes. At CAJaD the data base in GE format is used mainly for retrospective information retrieval to respond to individual requests by users. The search program is organized to meet requests for data on nuclear reaction cross-sections. It can search for reactions producing a particular isotope, reactions involving a particular target or reactions induced by particular particles (heavy ions). Responses to requests can take the form either of alphanumeric printout or of a file assembled on an output tape.

Thus, this set of computer programs, working on the principle of once-only full processing of primary information provides a basis for an integrated information system.

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18. Garber D., Dumford C., Pearlstein S. Data formats and procedures for the evaluated nuclear data file, ENDF. USA, BNL, Oct. 1975. BNL-NCS-50496.

Table 1

STRUCTURE OF THE INFORMATION IDENTIFIER

Information identifier	Meaning of information identifier	Field No.	Fields included and their codes
ADD-RES	Information about additional results in the paper but not included in data table	-	Code from dictionary 20
ANALYSIS	Description of the analysis method used for obtaining values (parameters) from experimental points or instrument spectra	-	Code from dictionary 23
ASSUMED	Information about reference values used in the process of data analysis	1 2	Code of column heading in data table Description of nuclear reaction for which parameters are given
AUTHOR	Initials and family names of all authors of the work	-	
COMMENT	Comments on the work. Additional information which cannot logically be entered under another keyword	-	Free text
CORRECTION	Information about corrections made to the experimental data by the authors	-	Free text
COVARIANCE	Information provided by the experimenter about correlations within the data table	-	Free text
CRITIQUE	The opinion of the compiler or evaluator about the quality of the data presented in the data table	-	Free text

Information identifier	Meaning of information identifier	Field No.	Fields included and their codes
DECAY-DATA	Decay data for nuclides for which cross-sections are calculated	1	"Decay flag" linking entry to DATA table
		2	The decaying nuclide, in the format Z-S-A-X
		3	Half-life showing data units (code from dictionary 25)
		4	Radiation type (code from dictionary 13)
		5	Particle energy (in kilovolts)
		6	Abundance of particles per decay (fields 4-6 may be repeated as often as necessary)
DECAY-MON	Decay data for nuclides used in the publication on the monitor reaction	-	Coding as for DECAY-DATA
DETECTOR	Type of detector used in measurements	-	Code from dictionary 22
EN-SEC	Shows headings under which data on secondary particle energies are given	1	Code of column heading in data table
		2	Code of particle (from dictionary 13) or nuclide (coded in format Z-S-A-X)
ERR-ANALYS	Shows types and sources of uncertainties given in data tables	1	Code of column heading in data table
		2	Free text
EXP-YEAR	Year in which experiment was performed if differs significantly from year of publication	-	
FACILITY	Main apparatus used in the experiment	1	Code from dictionary 18
		2	Institute or laboratory code (from dictionary 3) may be shown

Information identifier	Meaning of information identifier	Field No.	Fields included and their codes
FLAG	Fixed point number and explanation. Used for identifying experimental data differing from other points in the data table (e.g. in method of production, processing, etc.)	1	Flag for data table
		2	Free text
HALF-LIFE	Data on the half-life of the nuclide	1	Code of column heading in data table
		2	Code of the nuclide (coded in format Z-S-A-X)
HISTORY	Used to document handling of the data set (entry or sub-entry)	1	Date
		2	Code denoting action taken in respect of data set (from dictionary 15)
INC-SPECT	Information on certain characteristics of the particle beam of importance for evaluating data quality (resolution, spectrum shape, etc.)	-	Free text
INSTITUTE	Laboratory, institute or university at which the experiment was performed	-	Code from dictionary 3
METHOD	Description of the experimental method	-	Code from dictionary 21
MISC-COL	Used for any data given in the paper for which no special headings (from dictionary 24) are foreseen in the table	1	Code of column heading in data table
		2	Free text
MONITOR	Gives the monitor reaction where used as standard reference for experimental data	-	Coding as for information identifier REACTION

Information identifier	Meaning of information identifier	Field No.	Fields included and their codes
MONITOR-REF	Gives the reference from which the monitor data used were taken	1	Sub-accession number of an entry coded in GE format
		2	First author of publication on monitor reaction
		3	Reference to publication (coding as for keyword REFERENCE)
N-SOURCE PART-DET	Source of beam particles Prompt reaction products detected	- -	Code from dictionary 19 Radiation type (code from dictionary 13) or particle code in Z-S-A-X format
RAD-DET	Data on type of radiation of radioactive products	1	Decay flag linking to data table where values are given
		2	Unstable nuclide (coded in Z-S-A-X format)
		3	Radiation type (code from dictionary 13)
REACTION	Description of the nuclear reaction studied	1	Target nucleus (coding in Z-S-A-X format)
		2	Incident particle (code from dictionary 33 or coding in Z-S-A-X format)
		3	Process (code from dictionary 30) or set of emitted particles (code from dictionary 33)
		4	Product nucleus (coding in Z-S-A-X format)
		5	Information on reaction branch (code from dictionary 31)
		6	Information on measured parameter (code from dictionary 32)
		7	Indication (when this is not obvious) of reaction products detected to measure the parameter of field 6 (code from dictionary 31)

Information identifier	Meaning of information identifier	Field No.	Fields included and their codes
		8	Additional information on data presentation, e.g. line position coefficients, etc. (code from dictionary 34)
		9	Data type: experimental, theoretical, evaluated (code from dictionary 35)
REFERENCE	Reference to publication	1	Type of publication (code from dictionary 4)
		2	Reference code (codes from dictionaries 5-7)
		3	Volume (issue)
		4	Page
		5	Date of publication
REL-REF	References related to the work	1	Reason for citing the reference (code from dictionary 17)
		2	First author of the publication
		3	Reference to publication (coding as for keyword REFERENCE)
SAMPLE	Characteristics of the sample (composition, structure)	-	Free text
STATUS	Information on the status of the data given	1	Code from dictionary 16
		2	Reference to data set (entry or sub-entry) coded in GE format
TITLE	Full title of the publication	-	-

Table 2

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DATA UNITS AND
GE FORMAT SYSTEM IDENTIFIERS

Data	System identifier
Exchange tape	TRANS
Entry (coded work)	ENTRY
Sub-entry	SUBENT
BIB section	BIB
COMMON section	COMMON
Data table section	DATA

Table 3

INTERNATIONAL NON-NEUTRON EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR DATA BASE IN GE FORMAT
(AS OF DECEMBER 1982)

Supplying Centre	No. of coded works	No. of records on magnetic tape
CAJaD	130	32393
US National Nuclear Data Centre (NNDC), Brookhaven National Laboratory	51	10561
IAEA Nuclear Data Section (NDS), Austria	23	8323
Charged Particle Nuclear Data Group (KACHAPAG), FRG	200	55681
Centre for Data on Photonuclear Experi- ments, Moscow State University, USSR	45	27993
US National Nuclear Data Centre (NNDC), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	35	24882

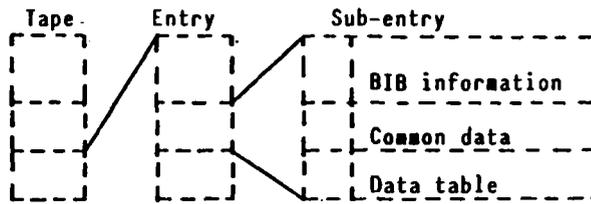


Fig. 1. General Structure of exchange tape

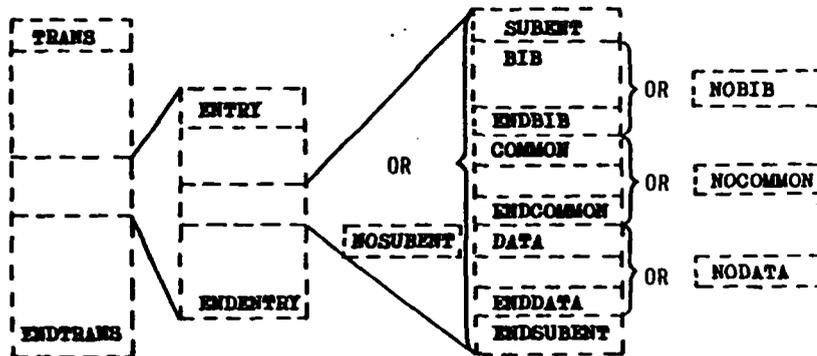


Fig. 2. Structure of the exchange tape using system identifiers

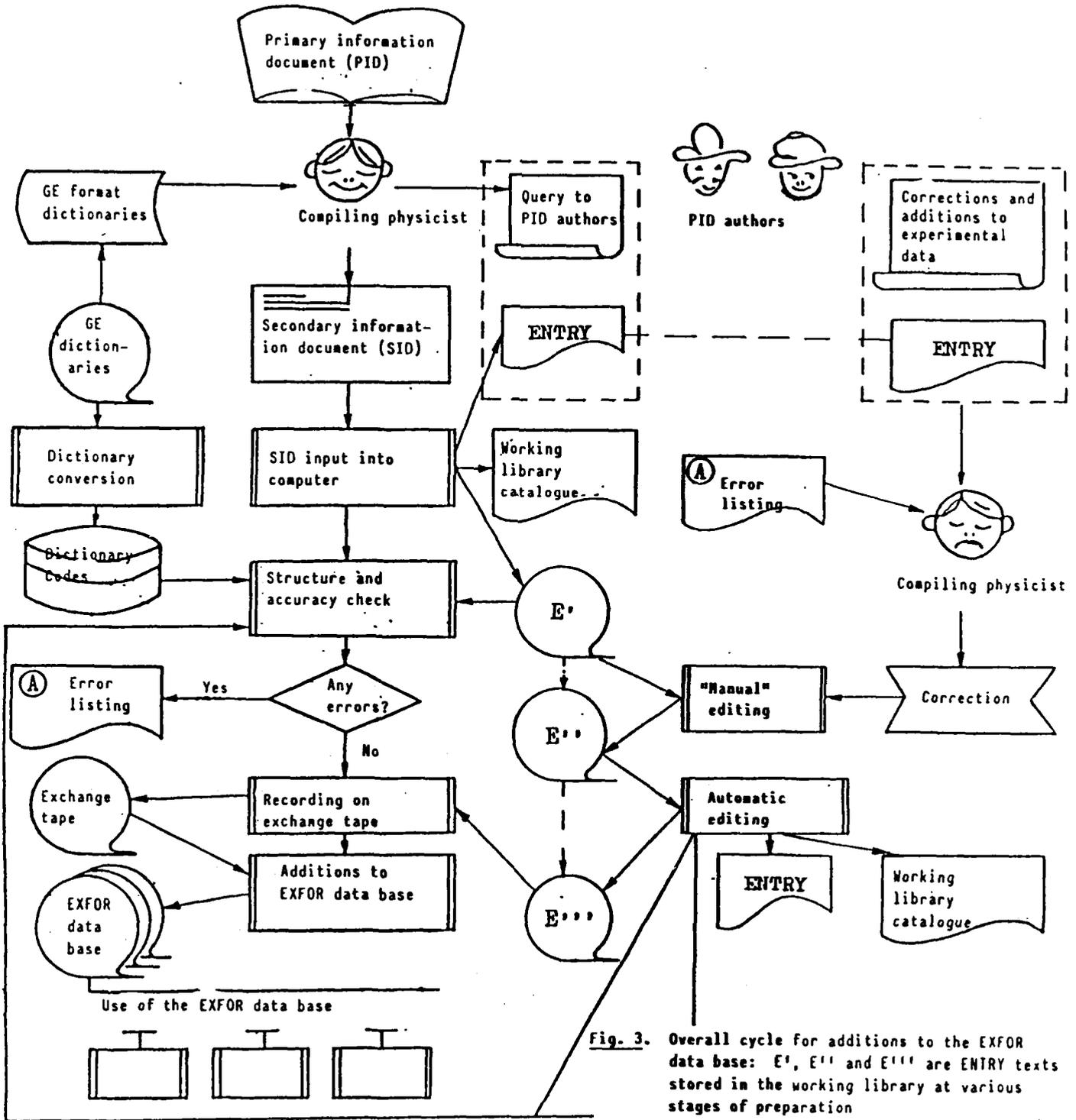


Fig. 3. Overall cycle for additions to the EXFOR data base: E', E'' and E''' are ENTRY texts stored in the working library at various stages of preparation

ENTRY	00154002	010005	A015400200001
UNIT	4	1A	A015400200002
REACTOR	7(30-96-70(ME1,2),30-90-77,INC,STI,LYE)		A015400200003
SAMPLE	4(30-96-70(ME1,2),30-90-70,INC,STI,LYE)		A015400200004
	REACTOR TARGETS, CONDITIONS (REF. (1))		A015400200005
	SF-70 0.14		A015400200006
	SF-7A 06.88		A015400200007
	SF-77 0.45		A015400200008
	SF-78 0.99		A015400200009
	SF-80 0.95		A015400200010
	SF-82 0.18		A015400200011
ANALYSIS	(DATA-FUN), THE TOTAL UNCERTAINTY IN LOSS SECTIONS		A015400200012
	VALY FROM CASE TO CASE, COMPILER GIV THE MAXIMAL		A015400200013
	UNCERTAINTY,		A015400200014
REACTOR	30-90-77,1.248,00,130,0,0,73,		A015400200015
	00,107,0,0001		A015400200016
	4(30-90-7A,10,648,00,270,272,0,267,		A015400200017
	00,316,0,00)		A015400200018
PERIOD	1A		A015400200019
GROUP	2	3	A015400200020
DATA-REF	ARATA-FOR 7		A015400200021
REF-REF	REF-REF 12		A015400200022
	15		A015400200023
FUNCTION	3		A015400200024
DATA	3	21	A015400200025
FW	DATA	7DATA 6	A015400200026
WV	NR	NR	A015400200027
	13,14 26,5A		A015400200028
	13,97 10,78		A015400200029
	16,14 179,8		A015400200030
	17,10 222,8		A015400200031
	18,08 327,1		A015400200032
	19,31 311,8		A015400200033
	21,10 410,0		A015400200034
	21,48 354,9	9,00	A015400200035
	23,47 300,1	20,40	A015400200036
	28,88	38,95	A015400200037
	28,78 248,7	45,42	A015400200038
	27,88 202,5	66,20	A015400200039
	28,88	148,0	A015400200040
	29,58 113,7		A015400200041
	30,05	90,40	A015400200042
	30,89	136,1	A015400200043
	31,21 104,8		A015400200044
	32,47 90,47	107,	A015400200045
	33,68	123,4	A015400200046
	30,32 48,20	108,3	A015400200047
	35,05 80,13	130,8	A015400200048
ENDATA	23		A015400200049
ENDURELT	48		A015400200050

SECOND SUB-ENTRY OF ENTRY A0154.002

Reactions can be entered under the same information identifier if measurements were made on one target

Record identifier

```

SUMNT      A0150001  010000
PTR        0      1A
REACTION   7(30-SF-76(MF3,NOP139-RR-77,IND/UMD,SIG,,,EXP)
          4(30-SF-76(MF3,240P)35-RR-76,IND/UMD,SIG,,,EXP)
          5(30-SF-76(MF3,340P)35-RR-75,IND/UMD,SIG,,,EXP)
SAMPLE     (NOTCHER TARGETS, COMPOSITION (PFR CFMT))
          SF-74  0,1A
          SF-76  96,AA
          SF-77  0,AS
          SF-7A  0,00
          SF-80  0,05
          SF-82  0,1A
ERR-ANAL  (DATA-FRR). THE TOTAL UNCERTAINTY IN CROSS SECTIONS
          VARY FROM CASE TO CASE. COMPILER GIVES THE MAXIMAL
          UNCERTAINTY.
DECAY-DATA 7(35-RR-77,55,MR,DC,23A,,0,23A,
          DC,521,,0,210)
          4(35-RR-76,16,MR,DC,559,,0,72A,
          DC,1216,,0,0AT)
          5(35-RR-75,1,6MR,DC,207,,0,91A)
FLDPRD    1A
FORMNO    3
DATA-FRR  7(DATA-FRR  3)DATA-FRR  5)
PFR-CFMT  PFR-CFMT  20)PFR-CFMT  20)
ELDPNOMN  3
DATA      8      2A
FN        DATA      DATA      DATA      DATA
MFV      PR         MR         MR         MR
13,00    15,2A
15,00    225,2
18,01    423,0
19,00    570,A
20,02    775,3
21,50    605,2      27,67
23,00    650,3      105,0
24,01    615,A      105,0
25,70    103,A
26,5A
27,5A    357,0
27,00    02A,1
29,00    50A,7
30,00    365,7      50A,0
31,5A    30A,0      650,2
32,3A    703,7
33,00    700,7
34,00    60A,0
35,1A    100A,0
35,1A    131,0      100A,0
35,1A    075,2
          >>
          00

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A01500030001
A01500030002
A01500030003
A01500030004
A01500030005
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A01500030050
A01500030051

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THIRD SUB-ENTRY OF ENTRY A01547003 [sic]

The pointers link numerical and textual information within one sub-entry. In this example, descriptions of nuclear reactions (REACTION) and information on the radioactive decay of reaction products (DECAY-DATA) are linked with the corresponding numerical data from measurements.

SURENT	AN154004	R30405		AN15400400001
RIP	0	19		AN15400400002
REACTION	0(34-SF-77(HF3, A)3A-KR-79, IND, SIG,,, EXP)			AN15400400003
	7(34-SF-77(HF3, 3N)36-KR-77, IND, SIG,,, EXP)			AN15400400004
	6(34-SF-77(HF3, 4N)36-KR-76, IND, SIG,,, EXP)			AN15400400005
SAMPLE	ENRICHED TARGETS, COMPOSITION(PER CENT)			AN15400400006
	SF-74	0.06		AN15400400007
	SF-76	0.66		AN15400400008
	SF-77	94.38		AN15400400009
	SF-78	3.02		AN15400400010
	SF-80	1.61		AN15400400011
	SF-82	0.27		AN15400400012
FRR-ANALYSIS	(DATA-FRR), THE TOTAL UNCERTAINTY IN CROSS SECTIONS VARY FROM CASE, COMPUTER GIVES THE MAXIMAL UNCERTAINTY.			AN15400400013
DECAY-DATA	9(36-KR-79, 35, HR, DG, 261., 0, 127, DG, 397., 0, 095, DG, 606., 0, 081)			AN15400400014
	7(36-KR-77, 1.2HR, DG, 130., 0, 873, DG, 147., 0, 409)			AN15400400018
	6(36-KR-76, 14, 6HR, DG, 270., 1272., 0, 267, DG, 316., 0, 400)			AN15400400020
FNDDTA		19		AN15400400022
COMMON		3	3	AN15400400023
DATA-FRR	0DATA-FRR	7DATA-FRR	6	AN15400400024
PER-CENT	PER-CENT	PER-CENT		AN15400400025
	15.	12.	15.	AN15400400026
FNDCOMMON		3		AN15400400027
DATA		4	12	AN15400400028
FN	DATA	9DATA	7DATA	6
MEV	MR	MR	MR	AN15400400030
	10, 86	8, 74		AN15400400031
	18, 06	25, 5	1, 36	AN15400400032
	20, 05	40, 15	12, 97	AN15400400033
	22, 32	40, 28	82, 86	AN15400400034
	23, 80		179,	AN15400400035
	25, 58	18, 24	261,	AN15400400036
	27, 38	10, 1	273,	1, 31
	29, 33	8, 73	313,	
	31, 03	6, 53	356, 6	5, 44
	32, 57	9, 60	304, 9	11, 8
	34, 44	5, 82	290,	18, 7
	35, 72	7, 6	287,	36, 6
FNDDATA		14		AN15400400043
ENDSURENT		42		AN15400499999

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A015400500001
A015400500002
A015400500003
A015400500004
A015400500005
A015400500006
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A015400500008
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A015400500042
A015400500043
A015400500044
A015400500045
A015400500046
A015400500047
A015400599999

SURENT      A0154005      830405
AIR          4      1A
REACTION    A(34-SF=77(MF3,N+P)35-BR=78,TMO/UND,SIG,,,EXP)
            7(34-SF=77(MF3,2N+P)35-BR=77,IND/UND,SIG,,,EXP)
            A(34-SF=77(MF3,3N+P)35-BR=76,TMO/UND,SIG,,,EXP)
SAMPLE      ENRICHED   TARGETS.COMPOSITION(PER CENT)
            SF=74      0,06
            SF=76      0,66
            SF=77      94,38
            SE=78      3,02
            SE=80      1,61
            SF=82      0,27

FRR-ANALYS (DATA=ERR).THE TOTAL UNCERTAINTY IN CROSS SECTIONS
VARY FROM CASE TO CASE.COMPIER GIVES THE MAXIMAL
UNCERTAINTY:
DECAY-DATA  A(35-BR=78,6.4MIN,DG,614.,0.136)
            7(35-BR=77,56.HR,DG,238.,0.238)
            A(35-BR=76,16.HR,DG,559.,0.724)
            DG,1216.,0.087)

ENDSTR      18
COMMON      3
DATA=ERR    7DATA=ERR 6
PER-CENT    PER-CENT  20.
20.
FNDCOMMON  3
DATA        4      17
FN          8DATA      7DATA      6
MEV         MB         HR         MR

10,48      72,09
13,61      349.
14,70
16,48      547.8      3.63
17,64      675.3      22.02
19,19
20,04      675.3      101.3
21,56      562.3      430.8
22,48      432.9      743.7
23,86      493,4      810,2      4.38
25,48      346,6
27,67      348,1      949,
29,17      328,9      961,5
31,07      263,3      912,5
32,62      246.2      1040,
34,24      1201.
35,36      1201.

FNDDATA    19
FNDSUBFAT  46
    
```

SIXTH SUB-ENTRY OF ENTRY A0154.006

```

REACT 0154006 A0154006
REACTION (30-95-77) (MFR, 100-130-95-75, INO/LIND, 91G, ., EXP)
SAMPLE ENRICHED TARGETS, COMPOSITION (PER CENT)
SF-74 0.00
SF-74 0.00
SF-77 00.10
SF-78 1.02
SF-78 1.02
SF-77 0.27
FRM-A01 VS (DATA-FRR), THE TOTAL UNCERTAINTY IN CROSS SECTIONS
VARY FROM CASE TO CASE, COMPTON GIVES THE MAXIMAL
UNCERTAINTY.
REACT-DATA (30-95-77, 120, D, CR, 134, ., 0, 54,
DG, 269, ., 0, 54,
DG, 280, ., 0, 249)
FRRMFR 10
COMMON 1
DATA-FRR 1
PER-CENT 15
FRRCOMMON 3
DATA 2 11
FRV DATA
FRV FR
17, 0A 7, 10
17, 0A 24, 85
20, 17 50, 53
22, 0A 00, 00
24, 17 00, 10
27, 10 64, 05
29, 22 60, 27
30, 0A 00, 00
32, 17 07, 25
30, 22 15, 00
35, 00 02, 00
FLDDATA 13
ENRICHMENT 16

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Constant parameters
valid only for sub-
entry A0154.006

Table of data determined
under information
identifier "REACTION"

A01540060001
A01540060002
A01540060003
A01540060004
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A01540060031
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A01540060033
A01540060034
A01540060035
A01540060036
A01540060037
A01540060038

SURENT A0154007 K21220
 PTR 4 13
 REACTION (34-SF-76(HF3,A)34-SF-75,IND/UND,SIG,,,EXP)
 SAMPLE ENRICHED TARGETS. COMPOSITION(PER CENT)
 SF-74 0,14
 SF-76 96,88
 SF-77 0,85
 SF-78 0,99
 SF-80 0,95
 SF-82 0,18
 ERR-ANALYS (+DATA=ERR), AUTHOPIS UNCERTAINTIES.
 (-DATA=ERR), AUTHOPIS UNCERTAINTIES.
 DECAY-DATA (34-SF-75,120.D,CG,136,,0,54,
 CG,265,,0,58,
 CG,280,,0,249)
 FADHTE 13
 COMMON
 DATA 4 12
 EN DATA -+DATA=ERR +DATA=ERR
 MFV MR MR MR
 10,17 3,55 0,67 0,83
 15,53 11,84 2,84 3,74
 18,71 16,78 3,89 4,61
 20,66 11,59 2,60 3,82
 21,61 25,06 5,81 5,24
 23,07 29,68 7,12 5,84
 24,70 25,06 4,77 4,93
 27,92 24,54 5,29 5,77
 30,60 28,15 7,20 8,12
 33,23 47,24 10,96 14,93
 34,64 75,96 14,47 17,87
 35,10 88,09 18,44
 ENDDATA 14
 ENDSURENT 32

A015400700001
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 A015400700028
 A015400700029
 A015400700030
 A015400700031
 A015400700032
 A015400700033
 A015400799999

SURENT	A015000A	A30005	A01500000001
PIA	8	14	A015000000002
REACTION	(30-SE-0(ME1,X)36-KR-79,IND,STG,,EXP)		A015000000003
SAMPLE	ISOTOPE	COMPOSITION(PER CENT)	A015000000004
	70-SE	0.47	A015000000005
	76-SE	9.02	A015000000006
	77-SE	7.58	A015000000007
	7A-SE	27.52	A015000000008
	80-SE	49.42	A015000000009
	82-SE	9.19	A015000000010
ERR-ANALYS	(DATA=ERR),THE TOTAL UNCERTAINTY IN CROSS SECTIONS VARY FROM CASE TO CASE, COMPILER GIVES THE MAXIMAL UNCERTAINTY.		A015000000011
DECAY-DATA	(36-KR=79,35,MR,DC,261.0,127,DR,397.0,095,OR,606.0,081)		A015000000012
			A015000000013
			A015000000014
			A015000000015
			A015000000016
			A015000000017
			A015000000018
			A015000000019
			A015000000020
			A015000000021
			A015000000022
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			A015000000031
			A015000000032
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			A015000000034
			A015000000035
			A015000000036
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ANNEX 2

List of the errors most frequently committed in
coding data in GE format[*]

1. Coding of nuclei and reaction products.
2. Use of new codes (laboratories, conferences, publications, etc.) which have not yet been included in the format dictionaries.
3. Use of symbols forbidden by the formatting rules (% , : , ;).
4. Use of a bracket in the 12th position of a line when free text is used (i.e. for information identifiers such as COMMON, TITLE, INC-SPECT).
5. Use of the MISC heading in the COMMON section.
6. Omission, in coding information for the DECAY-DATA keyword, of the decimal point in a numerical value, of the data unit code or of the data type code.
7. Use of the -G extension for the ground state when no metastable state is known or of the -M extension for nuclear states which are not generally considered metastable.
8. Use of blanks instead of zeros in line identifiers.
9. In data tables: omission of decimal points in numerical values; entry of headings and data units other than were required by the format; omission of data values; wrong characters or blanks in numerical values; use of incorrect headings (e.g. ELEM instead of ELEMENT).
10. Incorrect field numbers N1 and N2 for system identifiers BIB and Data

[*] Information taken from document "NDS Checking of Incoming TRANS Tapes" provided by the IAEA Nuclear Data Section.