# asammdf Documentation

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asammdf is a fast parser/editor for ASAM (Associtation for Standardisation of Automation and Measuring Systems) MDF (Measurement Data Format) files.

asammdf supports both MDF version 3 and 4 formats.

asammdf works on Python 2.7, and Python >= 3.4

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Project goals

The main goals for this library are:

- to be faster than the other Python based mdf libraries
- to have clean and easy to understand code base

# **Features**

- read sorted and unsorted MDF v3 and v4 files
- files are loaded in RAM for fast operations
- handle large files (exceeding the available RAM) using *load\_measured\_data = False* argument
- extract channel data, master channel and extra channel information as *Signal* objects for unified operations with v3 and v4 files
- time domain operation using the Signal class
  - Pandas data frames are good if all the channels have the same time based
  - usually a measuremeth will have channels from different sources at different rates
  - the Signal class facilitates operations with such channels
- remove data group by index or by specifing a channel name inside the target data group
- · append new channels
- filter a subset of channels from original mdf file
- convert to different mdf version
- export to Excel, HDF5 and CSV
- add and extract attachments
- mdf 4.10 zipped blocks

6 Chapter 2. Features

# Major features not implemented (yet)

- for version 3
  - functionality related to sample reduction block (but the class is defined)
- for version 4
  - handling of bus logging measurements
  - handling of unfinnished measurements (mdf 4)
  - mdf 4 channel arrays
  - xml schema for TXBLOCK and MDBLOCK

# Dependencies

## asammdf uses the following libraries

• numpy : the heart that makes all tick

• numexpr: for algebraic and rational channel conversions

• matplotlib : for Signal plotting

• wheel: for installation in virtual environments

optional dependencies needed for exports

• pandas : for DataFrame export

• h5py : for HDF5 export

• xlsxwriter : for Excel export

# Installation

## asammdf is available on

• github: https://github.com/danielhrisca/asammdf/

• PyPI: https://pypi.org/project/asammdf/

pip install asammdf

API

## **MDF**

This class acts as a proxy for the MDF3 and MDF4 classes. All attribute access is delegated to the underlying *\_file* attribute (MDF3 or MDF4 object). See MDF3 and MDF4 for available extra methods.

An empty MDF file is created if the *name* argument is not provided. If the *name* argument is provided then the file must exist in the filesystem, otherwise an exception is raised.

class asammdf.mdf.MDF (name=None, load\_measured\_data=True, version='3.20')
Unified access to MDF v3 and v4 files.

Parameters name: string

mdf file name, if provided it must be a real file name

load\_measured\_data : bool

load data option; default True

- if True the data group binary data block will be loaded in RAM
- if False the channel data is read from disk on request

version: string

mdf file version ('3.00', '3.10', '3.20', '3.30', '4.00', '4.10', '4.11'); default '3.20'

#### **Methods**

convert	
export	
filter	
iter_to_pandas	

```
convert (to, load measured data=True)
     convert MDF to other versions
         Parameters to: str
                new mdf version from ('3.00', '3.10', '3.20', '3.30', '4.00', '4.10', '4.11')
             load measured data: bool
               load data option; default True
                • if True the data group binary data block will be loaded in RAM
                • if False the channel data is stored to a temporary file and read from disk on request
         Returns out: MDF
               new MDF object
export (format, filename=None)
     export MDF to other formats. The MDF file name is used is available, else the filename aragument must
     be provided.
         Parameters format: string
               can be one of the following:
                • csv: CSV export that uses the ";" delimiter. This option wil generate a new csv file
                  for each data group (<MDFNAME>_DataGroup_XX.csv).
                • hdf5: HDF5 file output; each MDF data group is mapped to a HDF5 group with the
                  name 'DataGroup xx' (where xx is the index)
                • excel: Excel file output (very slow). This option wil generate a new excel file for
                  each data group (<MDFNAME>_DataGroup_XX.xlsx).
             filename: string
               export file name
filter (channels)
     return new MDF object that contains only the channels listed in channels argument
         Parameters channels: list
                list of channel names to be filtered
```

Returns mdf: MDF

new MDF file

iter to pandas()

generator that yields channel groups as pandas DataFrames

#### MDF3 and MDF4 classes

#### MDF3

asammdf tries to emulate the mdf structure using Python builtin data types.

The *header* attibute is an OrderedDict that holds the file metadata.

The *groups* attribute is a dictionary list with the following keys:

• data\_group : DataGroup object

- channel\_group : ChannelGroup object
- channels: list of Channel objects with the same order as found in the mdf file
- channel\_conversions : list of ChannelConversion objects in 1-to-1 relation with the channel list
- channel\_sources: list of SourceInformation objects in 1-to-1 relation with the channels list
- chanel dependencies: list of ChannelDependency objects in a 1-to-1 relation with the channel list
- data block : DataBlock object
- texts: dictionay containing TextBlock objects used throughout the mdf
  - channels: list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects ralated to each channel
    - \* long\_name\_addr : channel long name
    - \* comment\_addr : channel comment
    - \* display\_name\_addr : channel display name
  - channel group: list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects ralated to each channel group
    - \* comment\_addr : channel group comment
  - conversion\_tab: list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects ralated to VATB and VTABR channel conversions
    - \* text\_{n}: n-th text of the VTABR conversion
- sorted: bool flag to indicate if the source file was sorted; it is used when load\_measured\_data = False
- size : data block size; used for lazy laoding of measured data
- record\_size : dict of record ID -> record size pairs

The *file\_history* attribute is a TextBlock object.

The *channel\_db* attibute is a dictionary that holds the *(data group index, channel index)* pair for all signals. This is used to speed up the *get\_signal\_by\_name* method.

The *master\_db* attibute is a dictionary that holds the *channel index* of the master channel for all data groups. This is used to speed up the *get\_signal\_by\_name* method.

### API

class asammdf.mdf3.MDF3 (name=None, load measured data=True, version='3.20')

If the name exist it will be loaded otherwise an empty file will be created that can be later saved to disk

Parameters name: string

mdf file name

load\_measured\_data : bool

load data option; default True

- if True the data group binary data block will be loaded in RAM
- if False the channel data is read from disk on request

version: string

mdf file version ('3.00', '3.10', '3.20' or '3.30'); default '3.20'

#### **Attributes**

name	(string) mdf file name	
groups	(list) list of data groups	
header	(OrderedDict) mdf file header	
file_history	(TextBlock) file history text block; can be None	
load_measured_dataool) load measured data option		
version	(str) mdf version	
channels_db	(dict) used for fast channel access by name; for each name key the value is a list of	
	(group index, channel index) tuples	
masters_db	(dict) used for fast master channel access; for each group index key the value is the	
	master channel index	

#### **Methods**

dd_trigger
ppend
lose
et
nfo
ter_get_triggers
emove
ave

```
\verb"add_trigger" (group, time, pre_time=0, post_time=0, comment="``)
     add trigger to data group
         Parameters group: int
                group index
              time: float
                trigger time
              pre_time : float
                trigger pre time; default 0
              post\_time: float
                trigger post time; default 0
              \boldsymbol{comment}: str
                trigger comment
append (signals, acquisition_info='Python', common_timebase=False)
     Appends a new data group.
     For channel depencies type Signals, the samples attribute must be a numpy.recarray
         Parameters signals: list
                list on Signal objects
```

acquisition\_info: str

acquisition information; default 'Python'

common timebase: bool

flag to hint that the signals have the same timebase

## **Examples**

```
>>> # case 1 conversion type None
>>> s1 = np.array([1, 2, 3, 4, 5])
>>> s2 = np.array([-1, -2, -3, -4, -5])
>>> s3 = np.array([0.1, 0.04, 0.09, 0.16, 0.25])
>>> t = np.array([0.001, 0.002, 0.003, 0.004, 0.005])
>>> names = ['Positive', 'Negative', 'Float']
>>> units = ['+', '-', '.f']
>>> info = {}
>>> s1 = Signal(samples=s1, timstamps=t, unit='+', name='Positive')
>>> s2 = Signal(samples=s2, timstamps=t, unit='-', name='Negative')
>>> s3 = Signal(samples=s3, timstamps=t, unit='flts', name='Floats')
>>> mdf = MDF3('new.mdf')
>>> mdf.append([s1, s2, s3], 'created by asammdf v1.1.0')
>>> # case 2: VTAB conversions from channels inside another file
>>> mdf1 = MDF3('in.mdf')
>>> ch1 = mdf1.get("Channel1_VTAB")
>>> ch2 = mdf1.get("Channel2_VTABR")
>>> sigs = [ch1, ch2]
>>> mdf2 = MDF3('out.mdf')
>>> mdf2.append(sigs, 'created by asammdf v1.1.0')
```

#### close()

if the MDF was created with load\_measured\_data=False and new channels have been appended, then this must be called just before the object is not used anymore to clean-up the temporary file

**get** (name=None, group=None, index=None, raster=None, samples\_only=False) Gets channel samples. Channel can be specified in two ways:

- •using the first positional argument name
  - -if there are multiple occurances for this channel then the *group* and *index* arguments can be used to select a specific group.
  - -if there are multiple occurances for this channel and either the *group* or *index* arguments is None then a warning is issued
- •using the group number (keyword argument *group*) and the channel number (keyword argument *in-dex*). Use *info* method for group and channel numbers

If the raster keyword argument is not None the output is interpolated accordingly

Parameters name: string
name of channel
group: int
0-based group index
index: int
0-based channel index
raster: float

```
time raster in seconds
             samples_only: bool
               if True return only the channel samples as numpy array; if False return a Signal object
         Returns res: (numpy.array | Signal)
               returns Signal if samples only*=*False (default option), otherwise returns numpy.array
         Raises MdfError:
             * if the channel name is not found
             * if the group index is out of range
             * if the channel index is out of range
info()
     get MDF information as a dict
     Examples
     >>> mdf = MDF3('test.mdf')
     >>> mdf.info()
iter_get_triggers()
     generator that yields triggers
         Returns trigger_info: dict
               trigger information with the following keys:
                • comment : trigger comment
                • time : trigger time
                • pre_time : trigger pre time
                • post_time : trigger post time
                • index : trigger index
                • group : data group index of trigger
remove (group=None, name=None)
     Remove data group. Use group or name keyword arguments to identify the group's index. group has
     priority
         Parameters name: string
               name of the channel inside the data group to be removed
             group: int
               data group index to be removed
     Examples
     >>> mdf = MDF3('test.mdf')
     >>> mdf.remove(group=3)
     >>> mdf.remove(name='VehicleSpeed')
```

```
save (dst='', overwrite=False)
```

Save MDF to *dst*. If *dst* is not provided the the destination file name is the MDF name. If overwrite is *True* then the destination file is overwritten, otherwise the file name is appened with '\_xx', were 'xx' is the first conter that produces a new file name (that does not already exist in the filesystem)

Parameters dst: str

destination file name, Default "

overwrite: bool

overwrite flag, default False

#### MDF version 3 blocks

The following classes implement different MDF version3 blocks.

#### **Channel Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.Channel (**kargs)
```

CNBLOCK class derived from dict

The Channel object can be created in two modes:

- •using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters when reading from file
- •using any of the following presented keys when creating a new Channel

The keys have the following meaning:

- •id Block type identifier, always "CN"
- •block\_len Block size of this block in bytes (entire CNBLOCK)
- •next\_ch\_addr Pointer to next channel block (CNBLOCK) of this channel group (NIL allowed)
- •conversion\_addr Pointer to the conversion formula (CCBLOCK) of this signal (NIL allowed)
- •source\_depend\_addr Pointer to the source-depending extensions (CEBLOCK) of this signal (NIL allowed)
- •ch depend addr Pointer to the dependency block (CDBLOCK) of this signal (NIL allowed)
- •comment\_addr Pointer to the channel comment (TXBLOCK) of this signal (NIL allowed)
- •channel\_type Channel type
  - -0 = data channel
  - -1 = time channel for all signals of this group (in each channel group, exactly one channel must be defined as time channel) The time stamps recording in a time channel are always relative to the start time of the measurement defined in HDBLOCK.
- •short\_name Short signal name, i.e. the first 31 characters of the ASAM-MCD name of the signal (end of text should be indicated by 0)
- •description Signal description (end of text should be indicated by 0)
- •start\_offset Start offset in bits to determine the first bit of the signal in the data record. The start offset N is divided into two parts: a "Byte offset" (= N div 8) and a "Bit offset" (= N mod 8). The channel block can define an "additional Byte offset" (see below) which must be added to the Byte offset.
- •bit count Number of bits used to encode the value of this signal in a data record

```
•data_type - Signal data type
```

- •range\_flag Value range valid flag
- •min\_raw\_value Minimum signal value that occurred for this signal (raw value)
- •max\_raw\_value Maximum signal value that occurred for this signal (raw value)
- •sampling\_rate Sampling rate for a virtual time channel. Unit [s]
- •long\_name\_addr Pointer to TXBLOCK that contains the ASAM-MCD long signal name
- •display\_name\_addr Pointer to TXBLOCK that contains the signal's display name (NIL allowed)
- •aditional\_byte\_offset Additional Byte offset of the signal in the data record (default value: 0).

Parameters file\_stream: file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

### **Examples**

```
>>> with open('test.mdf', 'rb') as mdf:
... ch1 = Channel(file_stream=mdf, address=0xBA52)
>>> ch2 = Channel()
>>> ch1.name
'VehicleSpeed'
>>> ch1['id']
b'CN'
```

#### **Attributes**

name	(str) full channel name
address	(int) block address inside mdf file
dependencies	(list) lsit of channel dependencies

### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **ChannelConversion Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.ChannelConversion(**kargs)
      CCBLOCK class derived from dict
      The ChannelConversion object can be created in two modes:
          •using the file_stream and address keyword parameters - when reading from file
          •using any of the following presented keys - when creating a new ChannelConversion
      The first keys are common for all conversion types, and are followed by conversion specific keys. The keys have
      the following meaning:
          •common keys
              -id - Block type identifier, always "CC"
              -block_len - Block size of this block in bytes (entire CCBLOCK)
              -range_flag - Physical value range valid flag:
              -min_phy_value - Minimum physical signal value that occurred for this signal
              -max_phy_value - Maximum physical signal value that occurred for this signal
              -unit - Physical unit (string should be terminated with 0)
              -conversion_type - Conversion type (formula identifier)
              -ref_param_nr - Size information about additional conversion data
          specific keys
              -linear conversion
                  *b - offset
                  *a - factor
                  *CANapeHiddenExtra - sometimes CANape appends extra information; not compliant with MDF
                    specs
              -ASAM formula conversion
                  *formula - ecuation as string
              -polynomial or rational conversion
                   *P1 .. P6 - factors
              -exponential or logarithmic conversion
                  *P1 .. P7 - factors
              -tabular with or without interpolation (grouped by n)
                  *raw_{n} - n-th raw integer value (X axis)
                  *phys_{n} - n-th physical value (Y axis)
              -text table conversion
                  *param_val_{n} - n-th integers value (X axis)
                  *text_{n} - n-th text value (Y axis)
              -text range table conversion
```

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\*lower\_{n} - n-th lower raw value

```
*upper_{n} - n-th upper raw value
*text_{n} - n-th text value

Parameters file_stream : file handle
    mdf file handle

address : int

block address inside mdf file
```

#### **Examples**

#### **Attributes**

address (int) block address inside mdf file

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **ChannelDependency Class**

Currently the ChannelDependency object can only be created using the file\_stream and address keyword pa-

The keys have the following meaning:

rameters when reading from file

```
•id - Block type identifier, always "CD"
```

•block\_len - Block size of this block in bytes (entire CDBLOCK)

•data - Dependency type

```
•sd_nr - Total number of signals dependencies (m)
```

•for each dependency there is a group of three keys:

 $-dg_{n}$  - Pointer to the data group block (DGBLOCK) of signal dependency n

 $-cg_{n}$  - Pointer to the channel group block (DGBLOCK) of signal dependency n

 $-ch_{n}$  - Pointer to the channel block (DGBLOCK) of signal dependency n

•there can also be optional keys which decribe dimensions for the N-dimensional dependencies:

 $-\dim_{n}$  - Optional: size of dimension n for N-dimensional dependency

#### Parameters file\_stream : file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

#### **Attributes**

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **ChannelExtension Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.ChannelExtension(**kargs)
```

CEBLOCK class derived from dict

The ChannelExtension object can be created in two modes:

 $\bullet$ using the *file\_stream* and *address* keyword parameters - when reading from file

•using any of the following presented keys - when creating a new ChannelExtension

The first keys are common for all conversion types, and are followed by conversion specific keys. The keys have the following meaning:

•common keys

-id - Block type identifier, always "CE"

```
-block_len - Block size of this block in bytes (entire CEBLOCK)
   -type - Extension type identifier
•specific keys
    -for DIM block
        *module_nr - Number of module
        *module_address - Address
        *description - Description
        *ECU_identification - Identification of ECU
        *reserved0' - reserved
    -for Vector CAN block
        *CAN_id - Identifier of CAN message
        *CAN_ch_index - Index of CAN channel
        *message_name - Name of message (string should be terminated by 0)
        *sender_name - Name of sender (string should be terminated by 0)
        *reserved0 - reserved
Parameters file stream: file handle
         mdf file handle
     address: int
         block address inside mdf file
```

#### **Attributes**

address	(int) block address inside mdf file	l
---------	-------------------------------------	---

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **ChannelGroup Class**

The ChannelGroup object can be created in two modes:

- •using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters when reading from file
- •using any of the following presented keys when creating a new ChannelGroup

The keys have the following meaning:

- •id Block type identifier, always "CG"
- •block len Block size of this block in bytes (entire CGBLOCK)
- •next\_cg\_addr Pointer to next channel group block (CGBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •first\_ch\_addr Pointer to first channel block (CNBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •comment\_addr Pointer to channel group comment text (TXBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •record\_id Record ID, i.e. value of the identifier for a record if the DGBLOCK defines a number of record IDs > 0
- •ch\_nr Number of channels (redundant information)
- •samples\_byte\_nr Size of data record in Bytes (without record ID), i.e. size of plain data for a each recorded sample of this channel group
- •cycles\_nr Number of records of this type in the data block i.e. number of samples for this channel group
- •sample\_reduction\_addr only since version 3.3. Pointer to first sample reduction block (SRBLOCK) (NIL allowed) Default value: NIL.

#### Parameters file\_stream : file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

#### **Examples**

#### **Attributes**

**address** (int) block address inside mdf file

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **DataGroup Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.DataGroup (**kargs)
```

DGBLOCK class derived from dict

The DataGroup object can be created in two modes:

- •using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters when reading from file
- •using any of the following presented keys when creating a new DataGroup

The keys have the following meaning:

- •id Block type identifier, always "DG"
- •block\_len Block size of this block in bytes (entire DGBLOCK)
- •next\_dg\_addr Pointer to next data group block (DGBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •first\_cg\_addr Pointer to first channel group block (CGBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •trigger\_addr Pointer to trigger block (TRBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •data\_block\_addr Pointer to the data block (see separate chapter on data storage)
- •cg\_nr Number of channel groups (redundant information)
- •record\_id\_nr Number of record IDs in the data block
- •reserved0 since version 3.2; Reserved

Parameters file\_stream: file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

#### **Attributes**

address (int) block address inside mdf file

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### FileIdentificationBlock Class

```
class asammdf.mdf3.FileIdentificationBlock(**kargs)
```

IDBLOCK class derived from dict

The TriggerBlock object can be created in two modes:

- •using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters when reading from file
- •using the classmethod from\_text

The keys have the following meaning:

- •file\_identification file identifier
- •version\_str format identifier
- •program\_identification program identifier
- •byte\_order default byte order
- •float\_format default floating-point format
- ${\color{red} \bullet mdf\_version} \; {\color{red} \bullet mdf\_versi$
- •code\_page code page number
- •reserved0 reserved
- •reserved1 reserved
- $\hbox{-}unfinalized\_standard\_flags-Standard\ Flags\ for\ unfinalized\ MDF$
- $\hbox{-}unfinalized\_custom\_flags-Custom\ Flags\ for\ unfinalized\ MDF$

Parameters file\_stream : file handle

mdf file handle

 $\boldsymbol{version}: int$ 

mdf version in case of new file

#### **Attributes**

<b>address</b> (int) block address inside mdf file; should be 0 alwa	/S
--	----

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **HeaderBlock Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.HeaderBlock(**kargs)
```

HDBLOCK class derived from dict

The TriggerBlock object can be created in two modes:

- •using the *file\_stream* when reading from file
- •using the classmethod from\_text

The keys have the following meaning:

- •id Block type identifier, always "HD"
- •block\_len Block size of this block in bytes (entire HDBLOCK)
- •first\_dg\_addr Pointer to the first data group block (DGBLOCK)
- •comment\_addr Pointer to the measurement file comment text (TXBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •program\_addr Pointer to program block (PRBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •dg\_nr Number of data groups (redundant information)
- •date Date at which the recording was started in "DD:MM:YYYY" format
- •time Time at which the recording was started in "HH:MM:SS" format
- •author author name
- •organization organization
- •project project name
- •subject subject

Since version 3.2 the following extra keys were added:

- •abs\_time Time stamp at which recording was started in nanoseconds.
- •tz\_offset UTC time offset in hours (= GMT time zone)

```
•time_quality - Time quality class
```

•timer\_identification - Timer identification (time source),

#### Parameters file\_stream: file handle

mdf file handle

#### **Attributes**

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **ProgramBlock Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.ProgramBlock(**kargs)
```

PRBLOCK class derived from dict

The ProgramBlock object can be created in two modes:

•using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters - when reading from file

•using any of the following presented keys - when creating a new ProgramBlock

The keys have the following meaning:

•id - Block type identifier, always "PR"

•block\_len - Block size of this block in bytes (entire PRBLOCK)

•data - Program-specific data

Parameters file\_stream : file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

#### **Attributes**

nt) block address inside mdf file
-----------------------------------

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

## **SampleReduction Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.SampleReduction(**kargs)
```

SRBLOCK class derived from dict

Currently the SampleReduction object can only be created by using the *file\_stream* and *address* keyword parameters - when reading from file

The keys have the following meaning:

- •id Block type identifier, always "SR"
- •block\_len Block size of this block in bytes (entire SRBLOCK)
- •next\_sr\_addr Pointer to next sample reduction block (SRBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •data\_block\_addr Pointer to the data block for this sample reduction
- •cycles\_nr Number of reduced samples in the data block.
- •time\_interval Length of time interval [s] used to calculate the reduced samples.

Parameters file\_stream: file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

### **Attributes**

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### **TextBlock Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.TextBlock (**kargs)
    TXBLOCK class derived from dict
```

The ProgramBlock object can be created in two modes:

•using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters - when reading from file

•using the classmethod from\_text

The keys have the following meaning:

•id - Block type identifier, always "TX"

•block\_len - Block size of this block in bytes (entire TXBLOCK)

•text - Text (new line indicated by CR and LF; end of text indicated by 0)

## Parameters file\_stream : file handle

mdf file handle

address: int

block address inside mdf file

text: bytes

bytes for creating a new TextBlock

## **Examples**

```
>>> tx1 = TextBlock.from_text('VehicleSpeed')
>>> tx1.text_str
'VehicleSpeed'
>>> tx1['text']
b'VehicleSpeed'
```

#### **Attributes**

address	(int) block address inside mdf file
text_str	(str) text data as unicode string

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
from_text	
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

## **TriggerBlock Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf3.TriggerBlock(**kargs)
```

TRBLOCK class derived from dict

The TriggerBlock object can be created in two modes:

- •using the file\_stream and address keyword parameters when reading from file
- •using the classmethod *from\_text*

The keys have the following meaning:

- •id Block type identifier, always "TX"
- •block\_len Block size of this block in bytes (entire TRBLOCK)
- •text\_addr Pointer to trigger comment text (TXBLOCK) (NIL allowed)
- •trigger\_events\_nr Number of trigger events n (0 allowed)
- •trigger\_{n}\_time Trigger time [s] of trigger event n
- •trigger\_{n}\_pretime Pre trigger time [s] of trigger event n
- •trigger\_{n}\_posttime Post trigger time [s] of trigger event *n*

#### Parameters file stream: file handle

mdf file handle

 ${\bf address}: int \\$ 

block address inside mdf file

#### **Attributes**

address (int) block address inside mdf file

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

#### MDF4

asammdf tries to emulate the mdf structure using Python builtin data types.

The *header* attibute is an OrderedDict that holds the file metadata.

The *groups* attribute is a dictionary list with the following keys:

- data\_group : DataGroup object
- channel\_group : ChannelGroup object
- channels: list of Channel objects with the same order as found in the mdf file
- channel\_conversions: list of ChannelConversion objects in 1-to-1 relation with the channel list
- channel\_sources: list of SourceInformation objects in 1-to-1 relation with the channels list
- data\_block : DataBlock object
- texts: dictionay containing TextBlock objects used throughout the mdf
  - channels: list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects ralated to each channel
    - \* name\_addr : channel name
    - \* comment\_addr : channel comment
  - channel group: list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects ralated to each channel group
    - \* acq\_name\_addr : channel group acquisition comment
    - \* comment\_addr : channel group comment
  - conversion\_tab: list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects related to TABX and RTABX channel conversions
    - \* text {n}: n-th text of the VTABR conversion
    - \* default\_addr : default text
  - conversions: list of dictionaries that containt TextBlock obejets related to channel conversions
    - \* name\_addr : converions name
    - \* unit\_addr : channel unit\_addr
    - \* comment addr: converison comment
    - \* formula\_addr : formula text; only valid for algebraic conversions
  - sources: list of dictionaries that containt TextBlock obejets related to channel sources

\* name\_addr : source name\* path\_addr : source path\_addr\* comment\_addr : source comment

The *file\_history* attribute is a list of (FileHistory, TextBlock) pairs .

The *channel\_db* attibute is a dictionary that holds the (*data group index, channel index*) pair for all signals. This is used to speed up the *get\_signal\_by\_name* method.

The *master\_db* attibute is a dictionary that holds the *channel index* of the master channel for all data groups. This is used to speed up the *get\_signal\_by\_name* method.

#### API

class asammdf.mdf4.MDF4 (name=None, load\_measured\_data=True, version='4.00')

If the name exist it will be loaded otherwise an empty file will be created that can be later saved to disk

Parameters name: string mdf file name

load\_measured\_data : bool

load data option; default True

- if True the data group binary data block will be loaded in RAM
- if False the channel data is read from disk on request

version: string

mdf file version ('4.00', '4.10', '4.11'); default '4.00'

# **Attributes**

name	(string) mdf file name
groups	(list) list of data groups
header	(HeaderBlock) mdf file header
file_history	(list) list of (FileHistory, TextBlock) pairs
comment	(TextBlock) mdf file comment
identification	(FileIdentificationBlock) mdf file start block
load_measured_o	da(taool) load measured data option
version	(str) mdf version
channels_db	(dict) used for fast channel access by name; for each name key the value is a list of
	(group index, channel index) tuples
masters_db	(dict) used for fast master channel access; for each group index key the value is the
	master channel index

#### **Methods**

append	
attach	
close	
	Continued on next page

Table 6.15 – continued from previous page

```
extract_attachment
get
info
remove
save
```

```
append (signals, source_info='Python', common_timebase=False)
Appends a new data group.

Parameters signals: list
list on Signal objects
acquisition_info: str
acquisition information; default 'Python'
common_timebase: bool
flag to hint that the signals have the same timebase
```

# **Examples**

```
>>> # case 1 conversion type None
>>> s1 = np.array([1, 2, 3, 4, 5])
>>> s2 = np.array([-1, -2, -3, -4, -5])
>>> s3 = np.array([0.1, 0.04, 0.09, 0.16, 0.25])
>>> t = np.array([0.001, 0.002, 0.003, 0.004, 0.005])
>>> names = ['Positive', 'Negative', 'Float']
>>> units = ['+', '-', '.f']
>>> info = {}
>>> s1 = Signal(samples=s1, timstamps=t, unit='+', name='Positive')
>>> s2 = Signal(samples=s2, timstamps=t, unit='-', name='Negative')
>>> s3 = Signal(samples=s3, timstamps=t, unit='flts', name='Floats')
>>> mdf = MDF4('new.mf4')
>>> mdf.append([s1, s2, s3], 'created by asammdf v1.1.0')
>>> # case 2: VTAB conversions from channels inside another file
>>> mdf1 = MDF4('in.mf4')
>>> ch1 = mdf1.get("Channel1_VTAB")
>>> ch2 = mdf1.get("Channel2_VTABR")
>>> sigs = [ch1, ch2]
>>> mdf2 = MDF4('out.mf4')
>>> mdf2.append(sigs, 'created by asammdf v1.1.0')
```

Parameters data: bytes
data to be attached
file\_name: str
string file name
comment: str
attachment comment

```
compression: bool
                use compression for embedded attachment data
             mime: str
                mime type string
close()
     if the MDF was created with load_measured_data=False and new channels have been appended, then this
     must be called just before the object is not used anymore to clean-up the temporary file
extract_attachment (index)
     extract attachemnt index data. If it is an embedded attachment, then this method creates the new file
     according to the attachemnt file name information
         Parameters index: int
                attachment index
         Returns data: bytes | str
                attachment data
get (name=None, group=None, index=None, raster=None, samples only=False)
     Gets channel samples. Channel can be specified in two ways:
         •using the first positional argument name
            -if there are multiple occurances for this channel then the group and index arguments can be used
             to select a specific group.
            -if there are multiple occurances for this channel and either the group or index arguments is None
             then a warning is issued
         •using the group number (keyword argument group) and the channel number (keyword argument in-
         dex). Use info method for group and channel numbers
     If the raster keyword argument is not None the output is interpolated accordingly
         Parameters name: string
                name of channel
             group: int
                0-based group index
             index: int
                0-based channel index
             raster: float
                time raster in seconds
             samples_only: bool
                if True return only the channel samples as numpy array; if False return a Signal object
         Returns res: (numpy.array | Signal)
                returns Signal if samples_only*=*False (default option), otherwise returns numpy.array
         Raises MdfError:
             * if the channel name is not found
```

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\* if the group index is out of range

#### \* if the channel index is out of range

```
info()
```

get MDF information as a dict

#### **Examples**

```
>>> mdf = MDF4('test.mdf')
>>> mdf.info()
```

remove (group=None, name=None)

Remove data group. Use *group* or *name* keyword arguments to identify the group's index. *group* has priority

Parameters name: string

name of the channel inside the data group to be removed

group: int

data group index to be removed

# **Examples**

```
>>> mdf = MDF4('test.mdf')
>>> mdf.remove(group=3)
>>> mdf.remove(name='VehicleSpeed')
```

```
save (dst='', overwrite=False)
```

Save MDF to *dst*. If *dst* is not provided the destination file name is the MDF name. If overwrite is *True* then the destination file is overwritten, otherwise the file name is appened with '\_xx', were 'xx' is the first conter that produces a new file name (that does not already exist in the filesystem)

Parameters dst: str

destination file name, Default "

overwrite: bool

overwrite flag, default False

#### MDF version 4 blocks

The following classes implement different MDF version3 blocks.

# **AttachmentBlock Class**

When adding new attachments only embedded attachemnts are allowed, with keyword argument *data* of type bytes

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
extract	
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **Channel Class**

#### **Methods**

copy Generic (shallow and deep) copying operation
fromkeys
get
items
keys
pop
popitem
setdefault
update
values

# **ChannelConversion Class**

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{class} \; \texttt{asammdf.mdf4.ChannelConversion} \; (**kargs) \\ \text{CCBLOCK class} \end{array}$ 

# Methods

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
	Continued on next page

Table 6.18 – continued from previous page

keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **ChannelGroup Class**

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{class} \; \texttt{asammdf.mdf4.ChannelGroup} \; (**kargs) \\ \textbf{CGBLOCK} \; \textbf{class} \end{array}$ 

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **DataGroup Class**

# Methods

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **DataList Class**

```
class asammdf.mdf4.DataList(**kargs)
     DLBLOCK class
```

#### **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **DataBlock Class**

Parameters address: int

DTBLOCK address inside the file

**file\_stream**: int file handle

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# FileIdentificationBlock Class

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **HeaderBlock Class**

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **SourceInformation Class**

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
	Continued on next page

Table 6.25 – continued from previous page

pop		
popitem		
setdefault		
update		
values		

# **FileHistory Class**

class asammdf.mdf4.FileHistory(\*\*kargs)
 FHBLOCK class

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

# **TextBlock Class**

# **Methods**

clear	
сору	Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations.
from_text	
fromkeys	
get	
items	
keys	
pop	
popitem	
setdefault	
update	
values	

```
classmethod from_text (text, meta=False)
Create a TextBlock from a str or bytes
```

Parameters text: str | bytes input text meta: bool

enable meta text block

# **Examples**

```
>>> t = TextBlock.from_text(b'speed')
>>> t['id']
b'##TX'
>>> t.text_str
speed
>>> t = TextBlock.from_text('mass', meta=True)
>>> t['id']
b'##MD'
```

# Notes about *load\_measured\_data* argument

By default when the *MDF* object is created the raw channel data is loaded into RAM. This will give you the best performance from *asammdf*.

However if you reach the physical memmory limit *asammdf* gives you the option use the *load\_measured\_data* flag. In this case the raw channel data is not read.

#### **MDF** defaults

#### Advantages

· best performance

#### Disadvantages

• higher RAM usage, there is the chance the file will exceed available RAM

#### Use case

· when data fits inside the system RAM

#### MDF with load measured data

#### Advantages

- · lowest RAM usage
- can handle files that do not fit in the available physical memory

#### Disadvantages

· slow performance for getting channel data

# Use case

• when default data exceeds available RAM

**Note:** See benchmarks for the effects of using the flag

# **Signal**

The Signal represents a signal described by it's samples and timestamps. It can do aritmethic operations agains other Signal or numeric type. The operations are computed in respect to the timestamps (time correct). The integer signals are not interpolated, instead the last value relative to the current timestamp is used. *samples*, *timestamps* and *name* are mandatory arguments.

```
Parameters samples: numpy.array | list | tuple
signal samples
timestamps: numpy.array | list | tuple
signal timestamps
unit: str
signal unit
name: str
signal name
conversion: dict
dict describing the channel conversion, default None
comment: str
signal comment, default "
```

# **Methods**

```
astype
cut
interp
plot
```

```
astype (np_type)
returns new Signal with samples of dtype np_type

cut (start, stop)
Cuts the signal according to the start and stop values, by using the insertion indexes in the signal's time axis.

Parameters start: float
start timestamp for cutting
stop: float
stop timestamp for cutting
```

#### Returns outsig: Signal

new Signal cut from the original

# **Examples**

```
>>> new_sig = old_sig.cut(1.0, 10.5)
>>> new_sig.timestamps[0], new_sig.timestamps[-1]
0.98, 10.48

interp(new_timestamps)
  returns a new Signal interpolated using the new_timestamps

plot()
  plot Signal samples
```

# **Examples**

# **Working with MDF**

```
from asammdf import MDF, Signal
import numpy as np
# create 3 Signal objects
timestamps = np.array([0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5], dtype=np.float32)
# unit8
s_{uint8} = Signal(samples=np.array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4], dtype=np.uint8),
                 timestamps=timestamps,
                 name='Uint8_Signal',
                 unit='u1')
# int32
s_{int32} = Signal(samples=np.array([-20, -10, 0, 10, 20], dtype=np.int32),
                 timestamps=timestamps,
                 name='Int32_Signal',
                 unit='i4')
# float64
s_{10at64} = Signal(samples=np.array([-20, -10, 0, 10, 20], dtype=np.int32),
                   timestamps=timestamps,
                   name='Float64_Signal',
                   unit='f8')
# create empty MDf version 4.00 file
mdf4 = MDF(version='4.00')
# append the 3 signals to the new file
signals = [s_uint8, s_int32, s_float64]
mdf4.append(signals, 'Created by Python')
# save new file
mdf4.save('my_new_file.mf4')
```

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# **Working with Signal**

```
from asammdf import Signal
import numpy as np
# create 3 Signal objects with different time stamps
# unit8 with 100ms time raster
timestamps = np.array([0.1 * t for t in range(5)], dtype=np.float32)
s_uint8 = Signal(samples=np.array([t for t in range(5)], dtype=np.uint8),
                 timestamps=timestamps,
                 name='Uint8_Signal',
                 unit='u1')
# int32 with 50ms time raster
timestamps = np.array([0.05 * t for t in range(10)], dtype=np.float32)
s_int32 = Signal(samples=np.array(list(range(-500, 500, 100)), dtype=np.int32),
                 timestamps=timestamps,
                 name='Int32_Signal',
                 unit='i4')
# float64 with 300ms time raster
timestamps = np.array([0.3 * t for t in range(3)], dtype=np.float32)
s_{10at64} = Signal(samples=np.array(list(range(2000, -1000, -1000)), dtype=np.int32),
                   timestamps=timestamps,
                   name='Float64_Signal',
                   unit='f8')
prod = s_float64 * s_uint8
prod.name = 'Uint8_Signal * Float64_Signal'
prod.unit = '*'
prod.plot()
pow2 = s\_uint8 ** 2
pow2.name = 'Uint8_Signal ^ 2'
pow2.unit = 'u1^2'
pow2.plot()
allsum = s\_uint8 + s\_int32 + s\_float64
allsum.name = 'Uint8_Signal + Int32_Signal + Float64_Signal'
allsum.unit = '+'
allsum.plot()
```

```
# inplace operations
pow2 *= -1
pow2.name = '- Uint8_Signal ^ 2'
pow2.plot()
```

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# **Benchmarks**

asammdf relies heavily on dict objects. Starting with Python 3.6 the dict objects are more compact and ordered (implementation detail); asammdf uses takes advantage of those changes so for best performance it is advised to use Python >= 3.6.

# Intro

The benchmarks were done using two test files (for mdf version 3 and 4) of around 170MB. The files contain 183 data groups and a total of 36424 channels.

asamdf 2.5.0 was compared against mdfreader 0.2.5 (latest versions from PyPI). mdfreader seems to be the most used Python package to handle MDF files, and it also supports both version 3 and 4 of the standard.

The three benchmark cathegories are file open, file save and extracting the data for all channels inside the file(36424 calls). For each cathegory two aspect were noted: elapsed time and peak RAM usage.

# **Dependencies**

You will need the following packages to be able to run the benchmark script

- psutil
- mdfreader

# x64 Python results

The test environment used for 64 bit tests had:

- 3.6.2 (v3.6.2:5fd33b5, Jul 8 2017, 04:57:36) [MSC v.1900 64 bit (AMD64)]
- Windows-10-10.0.14393-SP0

- Intel64 Family 6 Model 94 Stepping 3, GenuineIntel
- 16GB installed RAM

Notations used in the results:

• nodata = asammdf MDF object created with load\_measured\_data=False (raw channel data not loaded into RAM)

Files used for benchmark:

- 183 groups
- 36424 channels

# Raw data

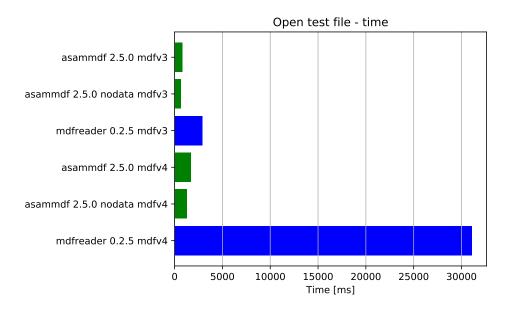
Open file	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv3	821	371
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv3	653	191
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv3	2909	537
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv4	1694	455
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv4	1297	260
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv4	31074	748

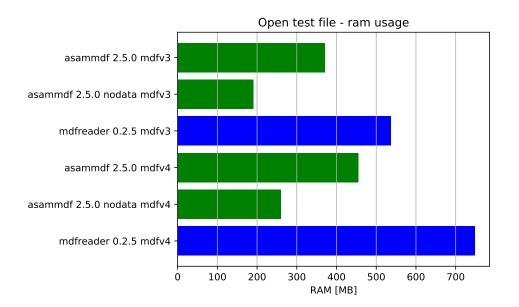
Save file	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv3	393	373
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv3	383	198
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv3	21464	1997
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv4	586	465
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv4	550	275
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv4	19036	2795

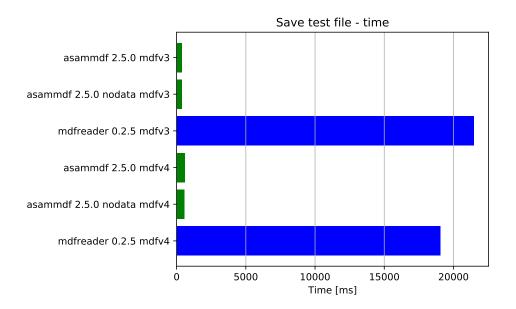
Get all channels (36424 calls)	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv3	613	381
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv3	9161	207
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv3	28	536
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv4	606	464
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv4	12403	275
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv4	40	748

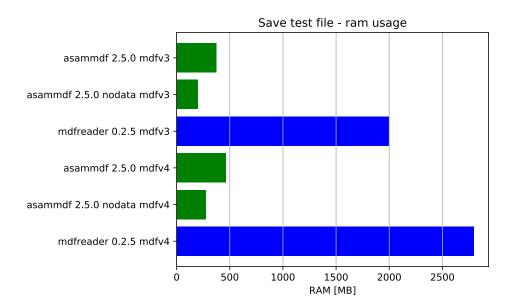
Convert file	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 v3 to v4	4773	885
asammdf 2.5.0 v3 to v4 nodata	21903	605
asammdf 2.5.0 v4 to v3	4823	882
asammdf 2.5.0 v4 to v3 nodata	26090	740

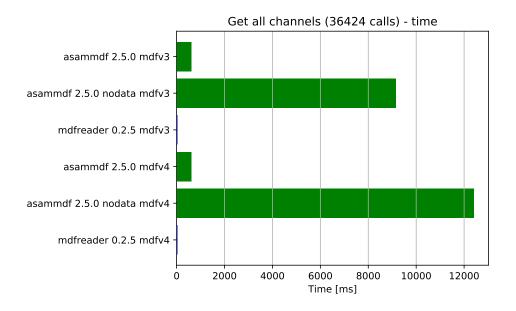
# **Graphical results**

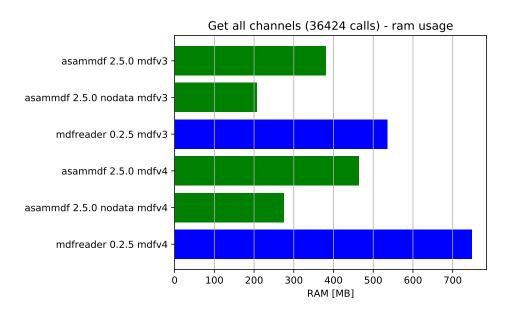


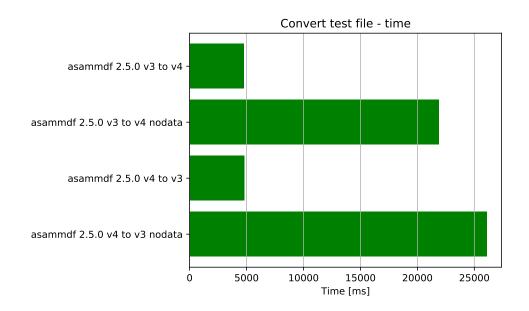


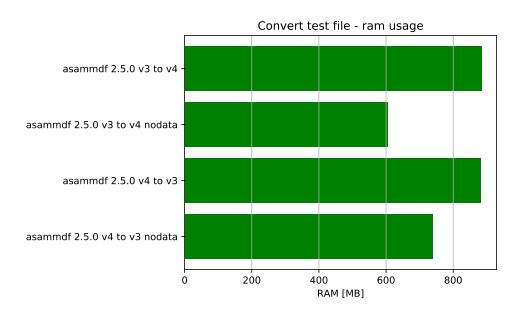












# x86 Python results

The test environment used for 32 bit tests had:

- 3.6.1 (v3.6.1:69c0db5, Mar 21 2017, 17:54:52) [MSC v.1900 32 bit (Intel)]
- Windows-10-10.0.14393-SP0
- Intel64 Family 6 Model 94 Stepping 3, GenuineIntel
- 16GB installed RAM

Notations used in the results:

- nodata = asammdf MDF object created with load\_measured\_data=False (raw channel data not loaded into RAM) Files used for benchmark:
  - 183 groups
  - 36424 channels

# Raw data

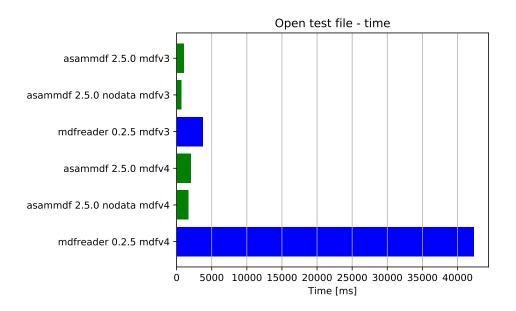
Open file	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv3	1009	289
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv3	663	118
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv3	3705	454
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv4	2031	343
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv4	1690	161
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv4	42315	576

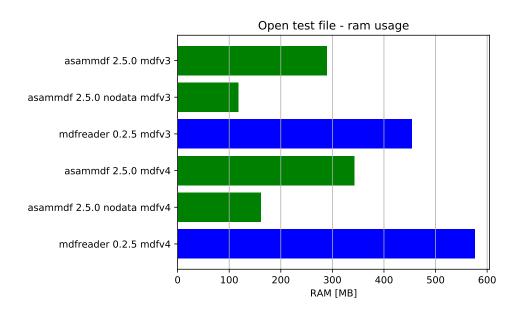
Save file	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv3	439	293
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv3	462	126
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv3	19759	1224
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv4	691	354
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv4	712	174
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv4	17415	1686

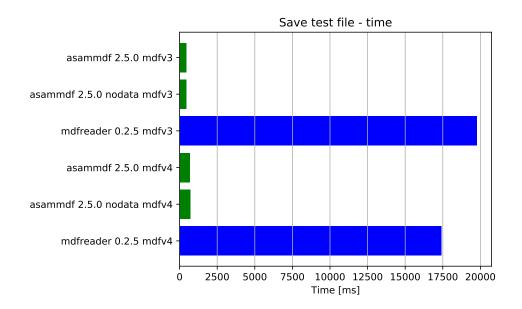
Get all channels (36424 calls)	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv3	807	298
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv3	18500	132
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv3	36	454
asammdf 2.5.0 mdfv4	804	349
asammdf 2.5.0 nodata mdfv4	21315	171
mdfreader 0.2.5 mdfv4	49	577

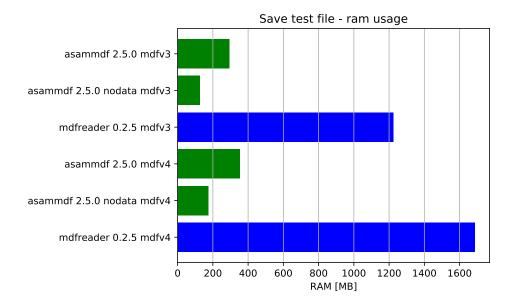
Convert file	Time [ms]	RAM [MB]
asammdf 2.5.0 v3 to v4	5834	709
asammdf 2.5.0 v3 to v4 nodata	28427	494
asammdf 2.5.0 v4 to v3	5474	710
asammdf 2.5.0 v4 to v3 nodata	30423	638

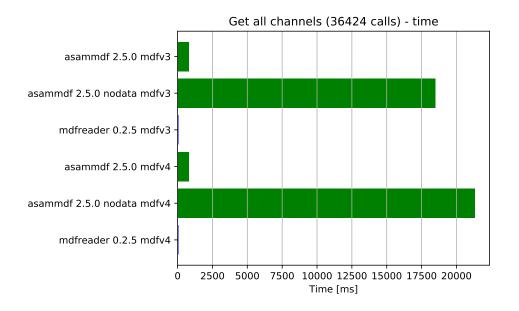
# **Graphical results**

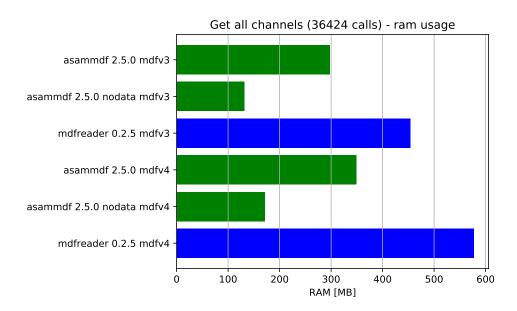


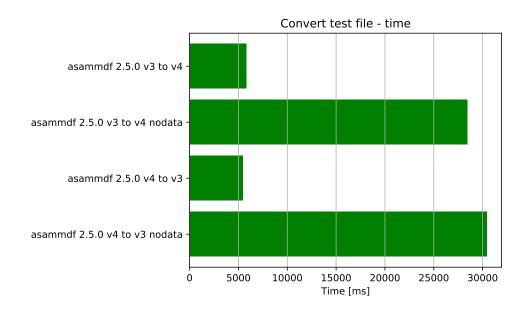


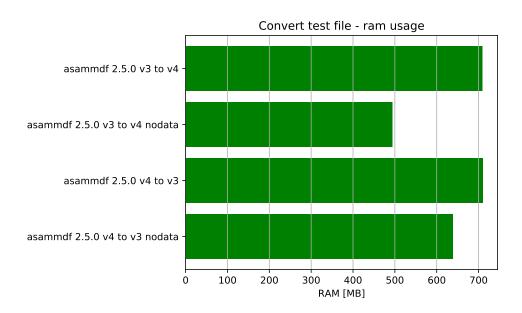












# CHAPTER 8

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