
asammdf Documentation

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asammdf is a fast parser/editor for ASAM (Association 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

CHAPTER 1

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

CHAPTER 2

Features

- create new mdf files from scratch
- append new channels
- read unsorted MDF v3 and v4 files
- filter a subset of channels from original mdf file
- cut measurement to specified time interval
- convert to different mdf version
- export to Excel, HDF5, Matlab and CSV
- merge multiple files sharing the same internal structure
- read and save mdf version 4.10 files containing zipped data blocks
- disk space savings by compacting 1-dimensional integer channels
- full support (read, append, save) for the following map types (multidimensional array channels):
 - mdf version 3 channels with CDBLOCK
 - mdf version 4 structure channel composition
 - mdf version 4 channel arrays with CNTemplate storage and one of the array types:
 - * 0 - array
 - * 1 - scaling axis
 - * 2 - look-up
- add and extract attachments for mdf version 4
- 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 measurement will have channels from different sources at different rates
 - the *Signal* class facilitates operations with such channels

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 unfinished measurements (mdf 4)
 - full support mdf 4 channel arrays
 - xml schema for TXBLOCK and MDBLOCK
 - partial conversions
 - event blocks

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
- xlswriter : for Excel export
- scipy : for Matlab .mat export

CHAPTER 5

Installation

asammdf is available on

- github: <https://github.com/danielhrisca/asammdf/>
- PyPI: <https://pypi.org/project/asammdf/>

```
pip install asammdf
```


Package level

`asammdf.enable_integer_compacting(enable)`

enable or disable compacting of integer channels when appending. This has the potential to greatly reduce file size, but append speed is slower and further loading of the resulting file will also be slower.

Parameters `enable` : bool

Enabling compacting of integer channels on append the file size of the resulting file can decrease up to a factor of ~0.5.

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.

Best practice is to use the MDF as a context manager. This way all resources are released correctly in case of exceptions.

```
with MDF(r'test.mdf') as mdf_file:
    # do something
```

class `asammdf.mdf.MDF` (`name=None`, `load_measured_data=True`, `version='4.10'`)

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 '4.10'

Methods

| |
|----------------|
| convert |
| cut |
| export |
| filter |
| iter_to_pandas |
| merge |

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

cut (*start=None*, *stop=None*, *whence=0*)
convert MDF to other versions

Parameters *start* : float

start time, default *None*. If *None* then the start of measurement is used

stop : float

stop time, default . If *None* then the end of measurement is used

whence : int

how to search for the start and stop values

- 0 : absolute
- 1 : relative to first timestamp

Returns *out* : MDF

new MDF object

export (*fmt*, *filename=None*)

export MDF to other formats. The *MDF* file name is used is available, else the *filename* argument must be provided.

Parameters *fmt* : string

can be one of the following:

- *csv* : CSV export that uses the “;” delimiter. This option

will generate a new csv file for each data group (<MDF-NAME>_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 will generate a new excel file for each data group (<MDFNAME>_DataGroup_XX.xlsx) * *mat* : Matlab .mat version 5 export, for Matlab >= 7.6. In the mat file the channels will be renamed to ‘DataGroup_xx_<channel name>’. The channel group master will be renamed to ‘DataGroup_xx_<channel name>_master’ (xx is the data group index starting from 0).

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

static merge (*files*, *outversion='4.10'*, *load_measured_data=True*)

merge several files and return the merged *MDF* object. The files must have the same internal structure (same number of groups, and same channels in each group)

Parameters *files* : list | tuple

list of *MDF* file names

outversion : str

merged file version

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 *merged* : *MDF*

new *MDF* object with merged channels

Raises *MdfException* : if there are inconsistencies between the files

merged *MDF* object

MDF3 and MDF4 classes

MDF3

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

The *header* attribute 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
- *channel_dependencies* : list of ChannelDependency objects in a 1-to-1 relation with the channel list
- *data_block* : DataBlock object
- *texts* : dictionary containing TextBlock objects used throughout the mdf
 - *channels* : list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects related 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 related to each channel group
 - * *comment_addr* : channel group comment
 - *conversion_tab* : list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects related 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 loading of measured data
- *record_size* : dict of record ID -> record size pairs

The *file_history* attribute is a TextBlock object.

The *channel_db* attribute 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* attribute 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='3.30'*)

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 '3.30'

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_data | (bool) 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 |
| compact_integers_on_append | |

Methods

| |
|-------------------|
| add_trigger |
| append |
| close |
| get |
| get_master |
| info |
| iter_get_triggers |
| save |

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

comment : str

trigger comment

append (*signals*, *acquisition_info*='Python', *common_timebase*=False, *compact*=True)

Appends a new data group.

For channel dependencies 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

compact : bool

compact unsigned signals if possible; this can decrease the file size but increases the execution time

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, timestamps=t, unit='+', name='Positive')
>>> s2 = Signal(samples=s2, timestamps=t, unit='-', name='Negative')
>>> s3 = Signal(samples=s3, timestamps=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 occurrences for this channel then the *group* and *index* arguments can be used to select a specific group.

–if there are multiple occurrences 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 *index*). 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. The *Signal* samples are:

- numpy recarray for channels that have CDBLOCK or BYTEARRAY type channels
- numpy array for all the rest

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

get_master (*index*, *data*=*None*)

returns master channel samples for given group

Parameters *index* : int

group index

data : bytes

data block raw bytes; default *None*

Returns *t* : numpy.array

master channel samples

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

save (*dst*='', *overwrite=False*, *compression=0*)

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*

compression : int

does nothing for mdf version3; introduced here to share the same API as mdf version 4 files

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” ($= N \bmod 8$). 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)
- additional_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) list of channel dependencies |

Methods

| | |
|------------|--|
| clear | |
| copy | 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 - equation 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
 - *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

```
>>> with open('test.mdf', 'rb') as mdf:
...     cc1 = ChannelConversion(file_stream=mdf, address=0xBA52)
>>> cc2 = ChannelConversion(conversion_type=0)
>>> cc1['b'], cc1['a']
0, 100.0
```

Attributes

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

Methods

clear

Continued on next page

Table 6.4 – continued from previous page

| | |
|------------|--|
| copy | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| fromkeys | |
| get | |
| items | |
| keys | |
| pop | |
| popitem | |
| setdefault | |
| update | |
| values | |
| | |

ChannelDependency Class

`class asammdf.mdf3.ChannelDependency (**kargs)`
CDBLOCK class derived from *dict*

Currently the ChannelDependency object can only be created using the *file_stream* and *address* keyword parameters when reading from file

The keys have the following meaning:

- id* - Block type identifier, always “CD”
- block_len* - Block size of this block in bytes (entire CDBLOCK)
- dependency_type* - 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 describe 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

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

Methods

| |
|------------------------|
| clear |
| Continued on next page |

Table 6.5 – continued from previous page

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |
| <code>setdefault</code> | |
| <code>update</code> | |
| <code>values</code> | |

ChannelExtension Class

class `asammdf.mdf3.ChannelExtension` (**kargs)
CEBLOCK class derived from *dict*

The ChannelExtension 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 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 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|

Methods

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

ChannelGroup Class

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

CGBLOCK class derived from *dict*

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

```
>>> with open('test.mdf', 'rb') as mdf:
...     cg1 = ChannelGroup(file_stream=mdf, address=0xBA52)
>>> cg2 = ChannelGroup(sample_bytes_nr=32)
>>> hex(cg1.address)
0xBA52
>>> cg1['id']
b'CG'
```

Attributes

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

Methods

| | |
|------------|--|
| clear | |
| copy | 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

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>clear</code> | |
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |
| <code>setdefault</code> | |
| <code>update</code> | |
| <code>values</code> | |

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
- `mdf_version` - version number of MDF format
- `code_page` - code page number
- `reserved0` - reserved
- `reserved1` - reserved
- `unfinalized_standard_flags` - Standard Flags for unfinalized MDF
- `unfinalized_custom_flags` - Custom Flags for unfinalized MDF

Parameters `file_stream` : file handle

mdf file handle

version : int

mdf version in case of new file

Attributes

| | |
|----------------|---|
| address | (int) block address inside mdf file; should be 0 always |
|----------------|---|

Methods

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>clear</code> | |
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |
| <code>setdefault</code> | |
| <code>update</code> | |
| <code>values</code> | |

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

| | |
|----------------|--|
| address | (int) block address inside mdf file; should be 64 always |
|----------------|--|

Methods

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

ProgramBlock Class

SampleReduction Class

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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <code>clear</code> | |
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |

Continued on next page

Table 6.11 – continued from previous page

| |
|------------|
| 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
address : int
block address inside mdf file

Attributes

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

Methods

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>clear</code> | |
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |
| <code>setdefault</code> | |
| Continued on next page | |

Table 6.12 – continued from previous page

| |
|--------|
| update |
| values |

MDF4

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

The *header* attribute 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* : dictionary containing TextBlock objects used throughout the mdf
 - *channels* : list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects related to each channel
 - * *name_addr* : channel name
 - * *comment_addr* : channel comment
 - *channel group* : list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects related 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 contain TextBlock objects related to channel conversions
 - * *name_addr* : conversions name
 - * *unit_addr* : channel unit_addr
 - * *comment_addr* : conversion comment
 - * *formula_addr* : formula text; only valid for algebraic conversions
 - *sources* : list of dictionaries that contain TextBlock objects 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* attribute 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* attribute 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='4.10'*)

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 '4.10'

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_data | (bool) 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

| |
|---------------------------------|
| <code>append</code> |
| <code>attach</code> |
| <code>close</code> |
| <code>extract_attachment</code> |
| <code>get</code> |
| <code>get_master</code> |
| <code>info</code> |
| <code>save</code> |

append (*signals, source_info='Python', common_timebase=False, compact=True*)

Appends a new data group.

For channel dependencies type Signals, the *samples* attribute must be a numpy.recarray

Parameters **signals** : list

list on *Signal* objects

source_info : str

source information; default 'Python'

common_timebase : bool

flag to hint that the signals have the same timebase

compact : bool

compact unsigned signals if possible; this can decrease the file size but increases the execution time

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, timestamps=t, unit='+', name='Positive')
>>> s2 = Signal(samples=s2, timestamps=t, unit='-', name='Negative')
>>> s3 = Signal(samples=s3, timestamps=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')
```

attach(*data*, *file_name*=None, *comment*=None, *compression*=True, *mime*='application/octet-stream')

attach embedded attachment as application/octet-stream

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 occurrences for this channel then the *group* and *index* arguments can be used to select a specific group.
 - if there are multiple occurrences 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 *index*). 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 The *Signal* samples are:

- numpy recarray for channels that have composition/channel array address or for channel of type `BYTEARRAY`, `CANOPENDATE`, `CANOPENTIME`
- numpy array for all the rest

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

get_master (*index*, *data=None*)

returns master channel samples for given group

Parameters *index* : int

group index

data : bytes

data block raw bytes; default None

Returns *t* : numpy.array

master channel samples

info ()

get MDF information as a dict

Examples

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

save (*dst=''*, *overwrite=False*, *compression=0*)

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*

compression : int

use compressed data blocks, default 0; only valid since version 4.10

- 0 - no compression
- 1 - deflate (slower, but produces smaller files)
- 2 - transposition + deflate (slowest, but produces the smallest files)

MDF version 4 blocks

The following classes implement different MDF version3 blocks.

AttachmentBlock Class

class `asammdf.mdf4.AttachmentBlock` (**kargs)
ATBLOCK class

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

Methods

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>clear</code> | |
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>extract</code> | |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |
| <code>setdefault</code> | |
| <code>update</code> | |
| <code>values</code> | |

Channel Class

class `asammdf.mdf4.Channel` (**kargs)
CNBLOCK class

Methods

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>clear</code> | |
| <code>copy</code> | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| <code>fromkeys</code> | |
| <code>get</code> | |
| <code>items</code> | |
| <code>keys</code> | |
| <code>pop</code> | |
| <code>popitem</code> | |
| <code>setdefault</code> | |
| <code>update</code> | |
| <code>values</code> | |

ChannelConversion Class

class `asammdf.mdf4.ChannelConversion` (**kargs)
CCBLOCK class

Methods

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

ChannelGroup Class

```
class asammdf.mdf4.ChannelGroup(**kargs)
    CGBLOCK class
```

Methods

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

DataGroup Class

```
class asammdf.mdf4.DataGroup(**kargs)
    DGBLOCK class
```

Methods

| | |
|----------|--|
| clear | |
| copy | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| fromkeys | |
| get | |
| items | |
| keys | |

Continued on next page

Table 6.18 – continued from previous page

| |
|------------|
| pop |
| popitem |
| setdefault |
| update |
| values |

DataList Class

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

Methods

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

DataBlock Class

class asammdf.mdf4.**DataBlock** (**kargs)
DTBLOCK class

Parameters address : int
DTBLOCK address inside the file

file_stream : int
file handle

Methods

| | |
|----------|--|
| clear | |
| copy | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| fromkeys | |
| get | |
| items | |
| keys | |
| pop | |
| popitem | |

Continued on next page

Table 6.20 – continued from previous page

| |
|------------|
| setdefault |
| update |
| values |

FileIdentificationBlock Class

```
class asammdf.mdf4.FileIdentificationBlock (**kargs)
    IDBLOCK class
```

Methods

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

HeaderBlock Class

```
class asammdf.mdf4.HeaderBlock (**kargs)
    HDBLOCK class
```

Methods

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

SourceInformation Class

```
class asammdf.mdf4.SourceInformation (**kargs)
    SIBLOCK class
```

Methods

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

FileHistory Class

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

Methods

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

TextBlock Class

class asammdf.mdf4.**TextBlock**(**kargs)
common TXBLOCK and MDBLOCK class

Methods

| | |
|----------|--|
| clear | |
| copy | Generic (shallow and deep) copying operations. |
| fromkeys | |
| get | |
| items | |
| keys | |

| |
|------------------------|
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|------------------------|

Table 6.25 – continued from previous page

| |
|------------|
| pop |
| popitem |
| setdefault |
| update |
| values |

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 memory 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
- must call *close* method to release the temporary file used in case of appending.

Note: it is advised to use the *MDF* context manager in this case

Use case

- when *default* data exceeds available RAM
-

Note: See benchmarks for the effects of using the flag

Signal

class `asammdf.signal.Signal` (*samples=None, timestamps=None, unit='', name='', info=None, comment=''*)

The `Signal` represents a signal described by its samples and timestamps. It can do arithmetic operations against 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

info : `dict`

dict that contains extra information about the signal , default *None*

comment : `str`

signal comment, default ''

Methods

| |
|---------------------|
| <code>astype</code> |
| <code>cut</code> |
| <code>extend</code> |
| <code>interp</code> |
| <code>plot</code> |

astype (*np_type*)

returns new *Signal* with samples of dtype *np_type*

cut (*start=None, stop=None*)

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 **result** : `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
```

extend (*other*)

extend signal with samples from another signal

Parameters *other* : Signal

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)

# uint8
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_float64 = 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')
```

```
# convert new file to mdf version 3.10 with compression of raw channel data
mdf3 = mdf4.convert(to='3.10', compression=True)
print(mdf3.version)
# prints >>> 3.10

# get the float signal
sig = mdf3.get('Float64_Signal')
print(sig)
# prints >>> Signal { name="Float64_Signal":          s=[-20 -10  0  10  20] t=[ 0.1  0.2
→      0.2          0.30000001  0.40000001  0.5          ] unit="f8"
→ conversion=None }
```

Working with Signal

```
from asammdf import Signal
import numpy as np

# create 3 Signal objects with different time stamps

# uint8 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_float64 = 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()
```


CHAPTER 7

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 (available here <https://github.com/danielhrisca/asammdf/issues/14>) (for mdf version 3 and 4) of around 170MB. The files contain 183 data groups and a total of 36424 channels.

asammdf 2.6.4 was compared against *mdfreader* 0.2.6 (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 categories are file open, file save and extracting the data for all channels inside the file(36424 calls). For each category 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

Usage

Extract the test files from the archive, or provide a folder that contains the files “test.mdf” and “test.mf4”. Run the module *bench.py* (see `-help` option for available options)

x64 Python results

Benchmark environment

- 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)
- `compression` = `mdfreader` mdf object created with `compression=blosc`
- `compression bcolz 6` = `mdfreader` mdf object created with `compression=6`
- `noDataLoading` = `mdfreader` mdf object read with `noDataLoading=True`

Files used for benchmark:

- 183 groups
- 36424 channels

Raw data

| Open file | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|--|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv3 | 781 | 364 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv3 | 570 | 187 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdfv3 | 2675 | 545 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdfv3 | 3791 | 268 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv3 | 3910 | 1040 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 noDataLoading mdfv3 | 1436 | 199 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv4 | 1921 | 435 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv4 | 1476 | 244 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdfv4 | 5520 | 1307 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdfv4 | 6529 | 1024 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv4 | 6757 | 1746 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 noDataLoading mdfv4 | 3948 | 943 |

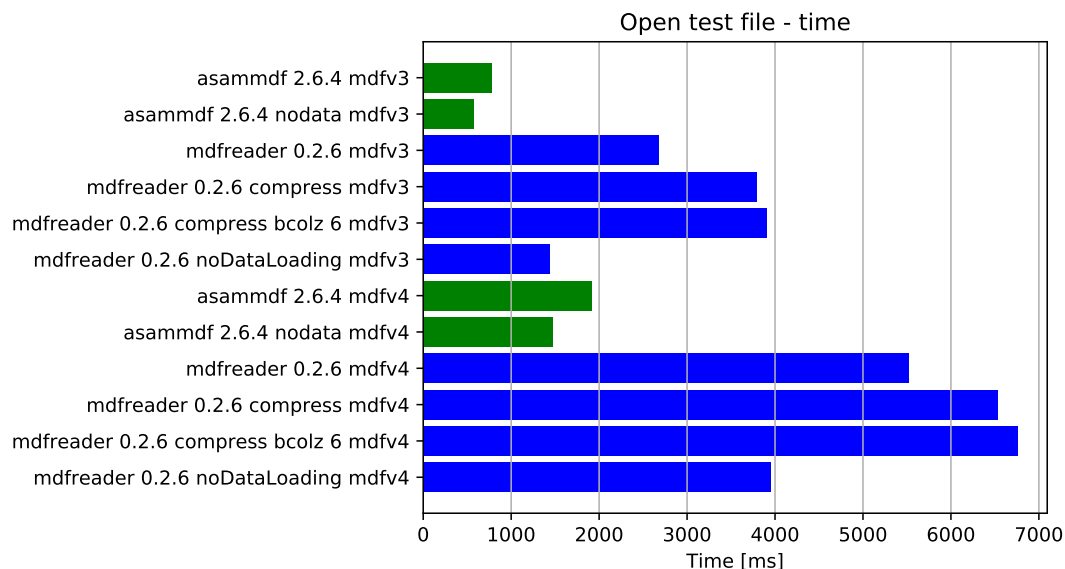
| Save file | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|--|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv3 | 375 | 365 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv3 | 360 | 194 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdfv3 | 7983 | 578 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdfv3 | 7966 | 543 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv3 | 7566 | 1041 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv4 | 493 | 440 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv4 | 444 | 256 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdfv4 | 6015 | 1329 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdfv4 | 6105 | 1288 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz6 mdfv4 | 5875 | 1763 |

| Get all channels (36424 calls) | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|--|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv3 | 636 | 370 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv3 | 8535 | 200 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdfv3 | 59 | 545 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdfv3 | 605 | 270 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv3 | 255 | 1042 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv4 | 675 | 443 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv4 | 16774 | 254 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdfv4 | 61 | 1308 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdfv4 | 598 | 1030 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv4 | 276 | 1753 |

| Convert file | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 to v4 | 3420 | 823 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 to v4 nodata | 18877 | 572 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 to v3 | 4009 | 832 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 to v3 nodata | 28683 | 718 |

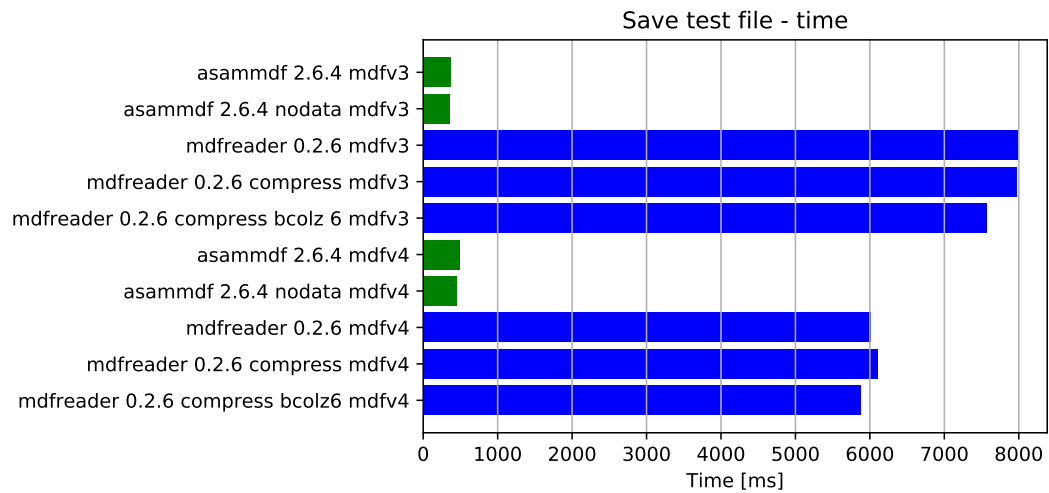
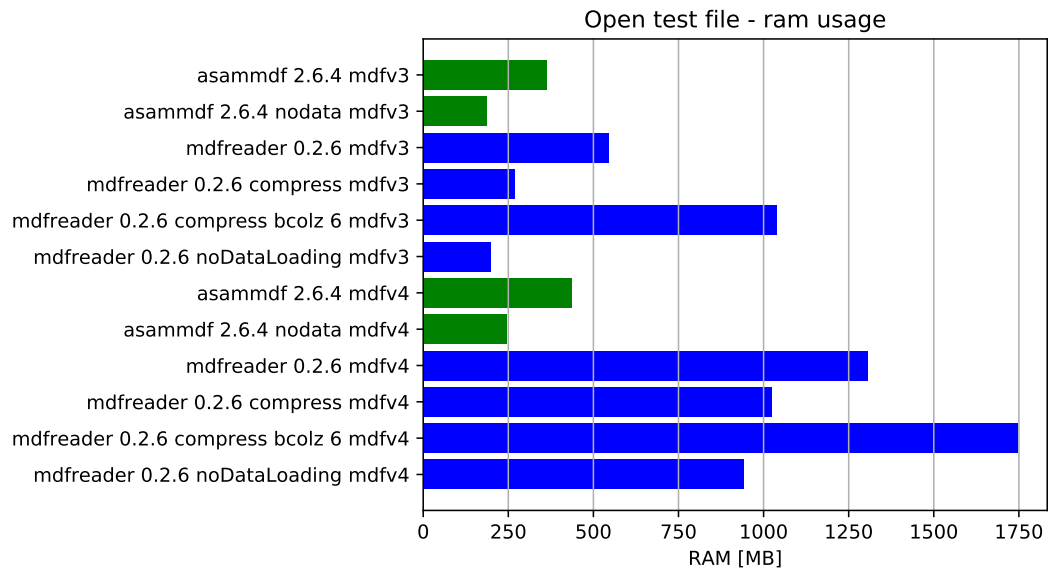
| Merge files | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 | 8251 | 1448 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 nodata | 27406 | 535 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 | 12183 | 1537 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 nodata | 48747 | 602 |

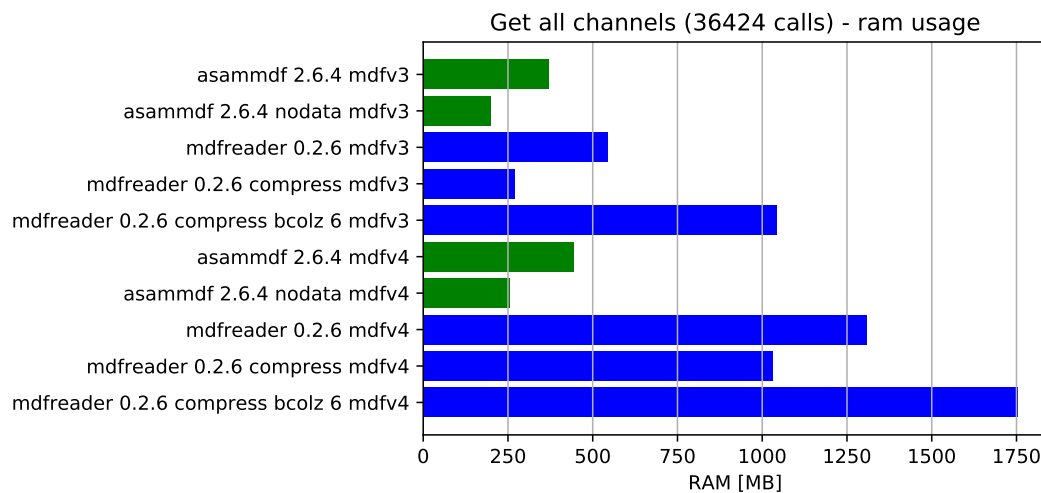
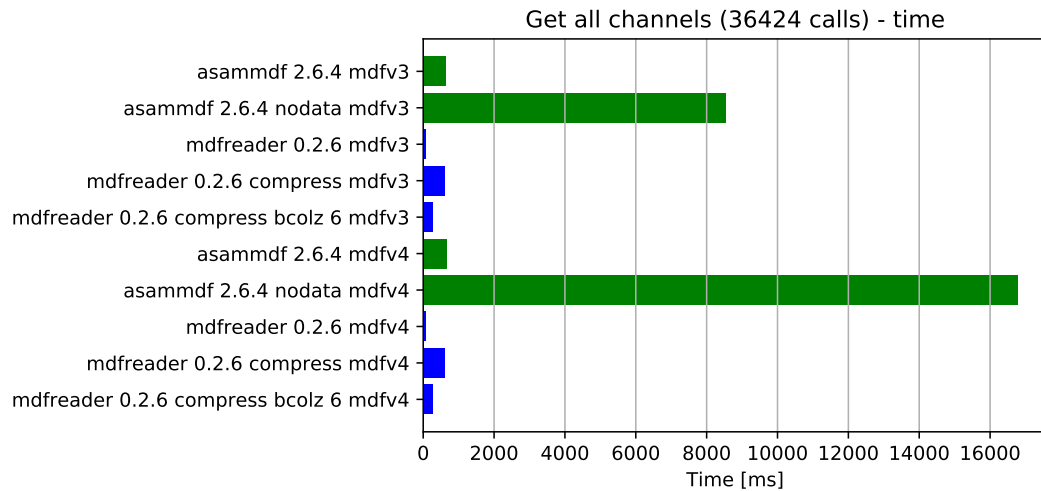
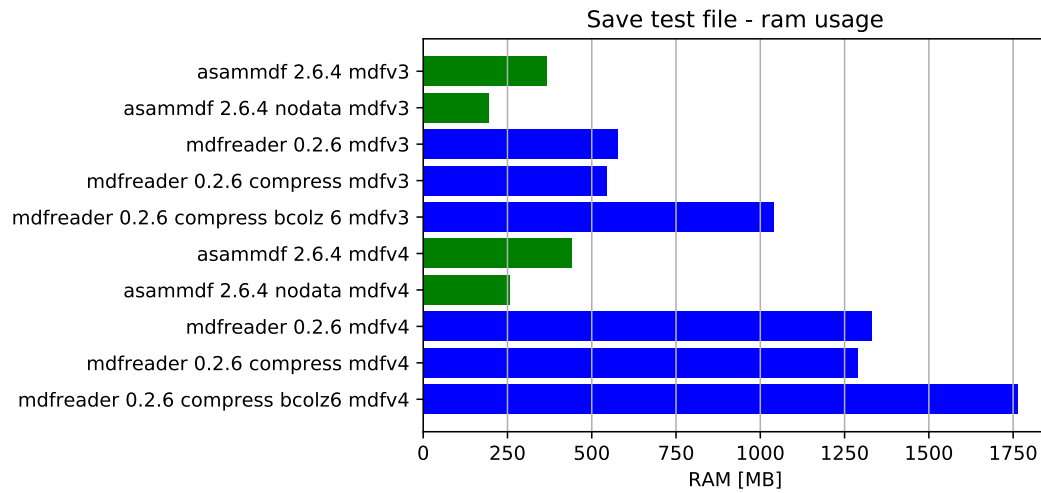
Graphical results

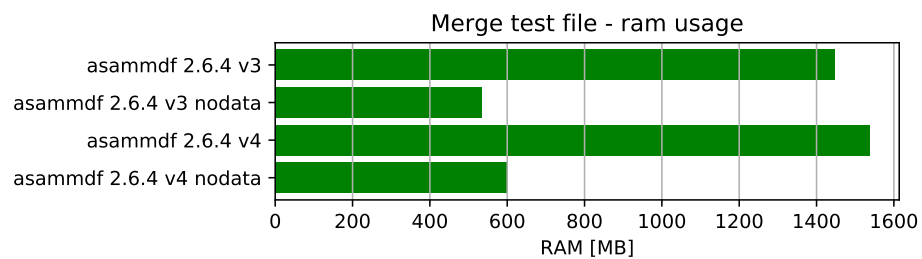
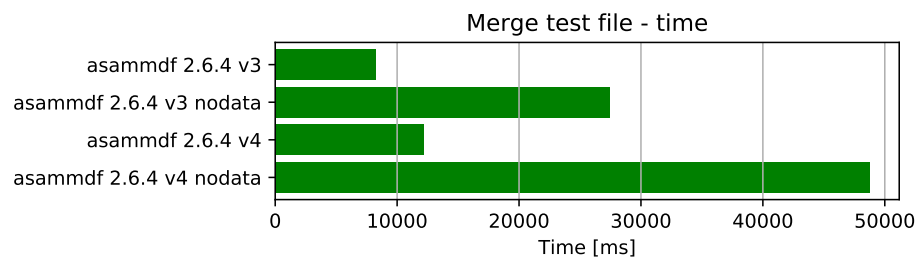
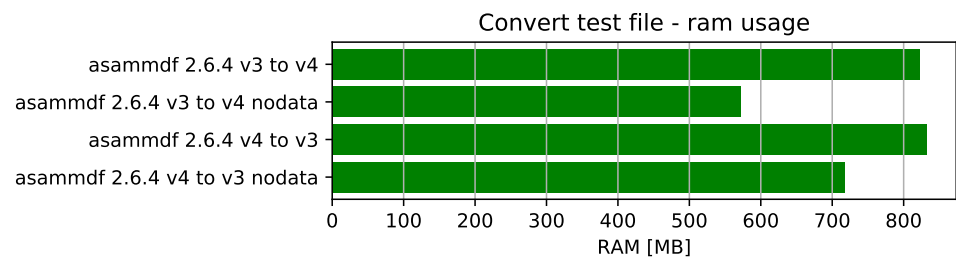
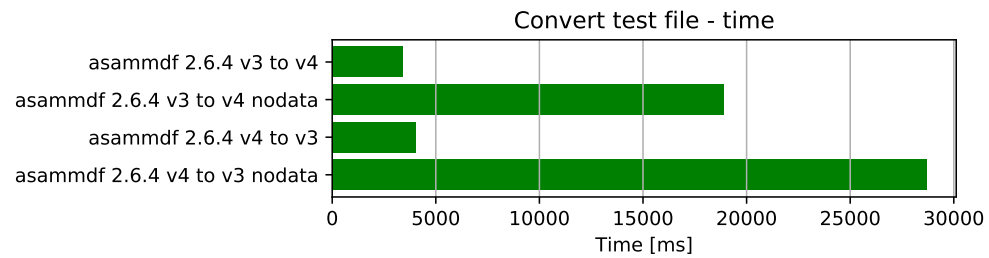


x86 Python results

Benchmark environment







- 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)
- `compression` = md freader mdf object created with `compression=blosc`
- `compression bcolz 6` = md freader mdf object created with `compression=6`
- `noDataLoading` = md freader mdf object read with `noDataLoading=True`

Files used for benchmark:

- 183 groups
- 36424 channels

Raw data

| Open file | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|---|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv3 | 926 | 286 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv3 | 615 | 118 |
| md freader 0.2.6 mdfv3 | 3345 | 458 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress mdfv3 | 4520 | 185 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv3 | 4635 | 941 |
| md freader 0.2.6 noDataLoading mdfv3 | 1867 | 120 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv4 | 2250 | 330 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv4 | 1706 | 150 |
| md freader 0.2.6 mdfv4 | 6413 | 869 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress mdfv4 | 7368 | 586 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv4 | 7733 | 1294 |
| md freader 0.2.6 noDataLoading mdfv4 | 4474 | 523 |

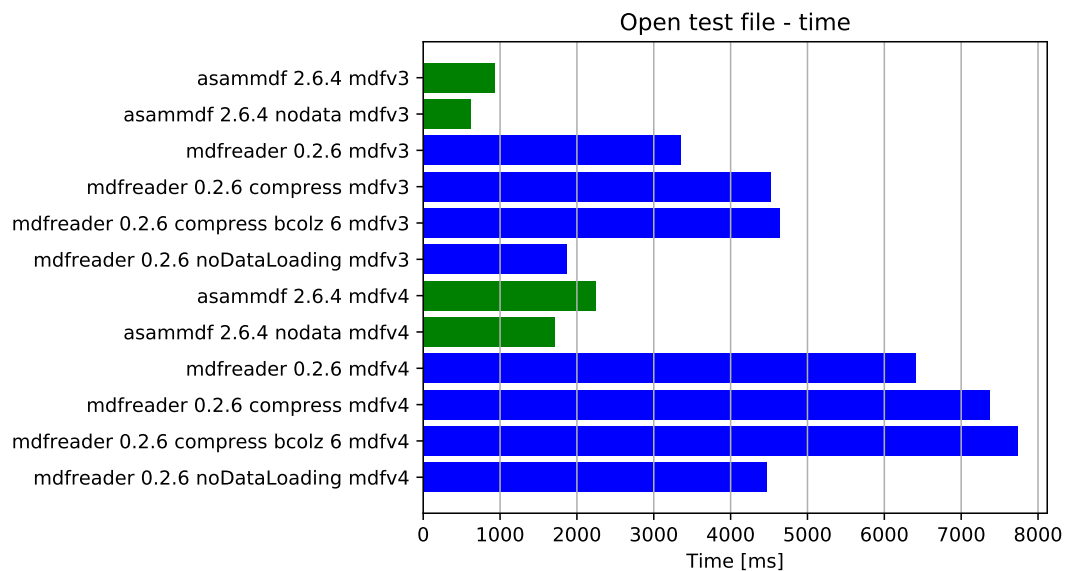
| Save file | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|---|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv3 | 407 | 290 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv3 | 447 | 126 |
| md freader 0.2.6 mdfv3 | 8865 | 481 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress mdfv3 | 8919 | 451 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdfv3 | 8548 | 941 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdfv4 | 578 | 334 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdfv4 | 617 | 159 |
| md freader 0.2.6 mdfv4 | 6758 | 891 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress mdfv4 | 6999 | 852 |
| md freader 0.2.6 compress bcolz6 mdfv4 | 6639 | 1312 |

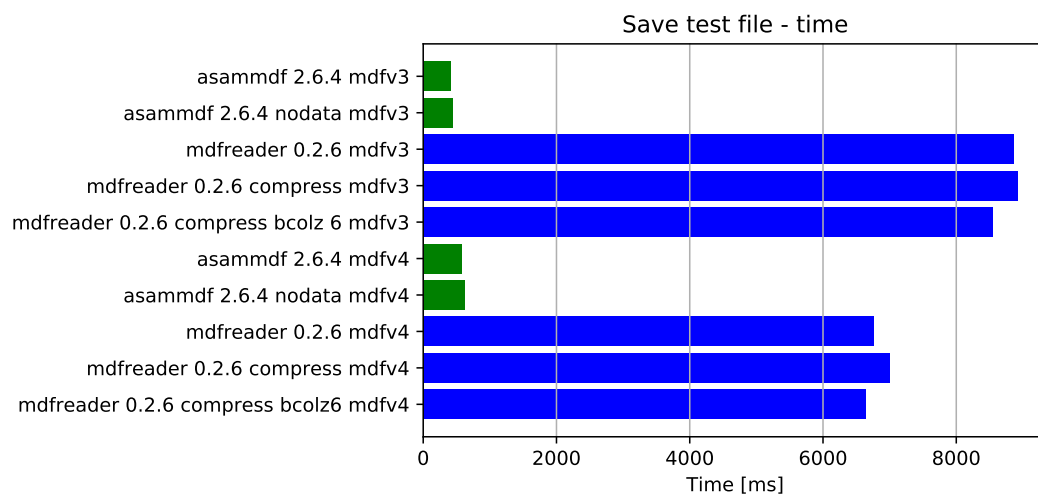
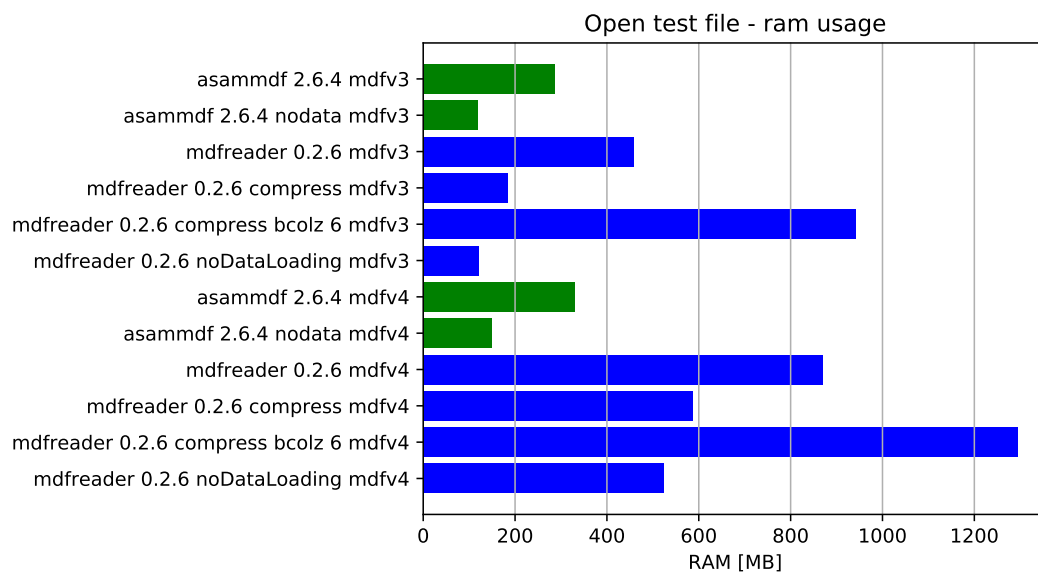
| Get all channels (36424 calls) | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdv3 | 818 | 291 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdv3 | 18416 | 128 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdv3 | 77 | 458 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdv3 | 665 | 188 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdv3 | 291 | 943 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 mdv4 | 860 | 335 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 nodata mdv4 | 25362 | 157 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 mdv4 | 162 | 794 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress mdv4 | 710 | 593 |
| mdfreader 0.2.6 compress bcolz 6 mdv4 | 336 | 1301 |

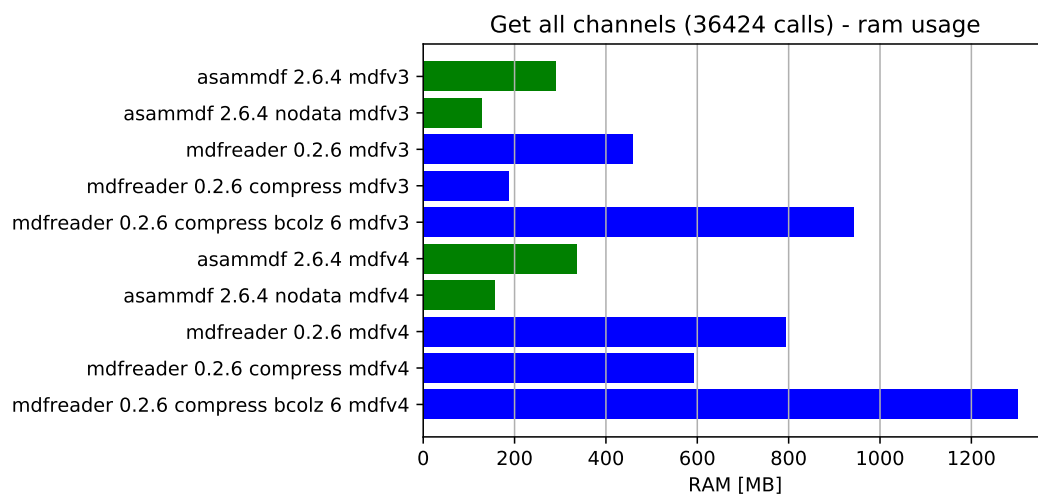
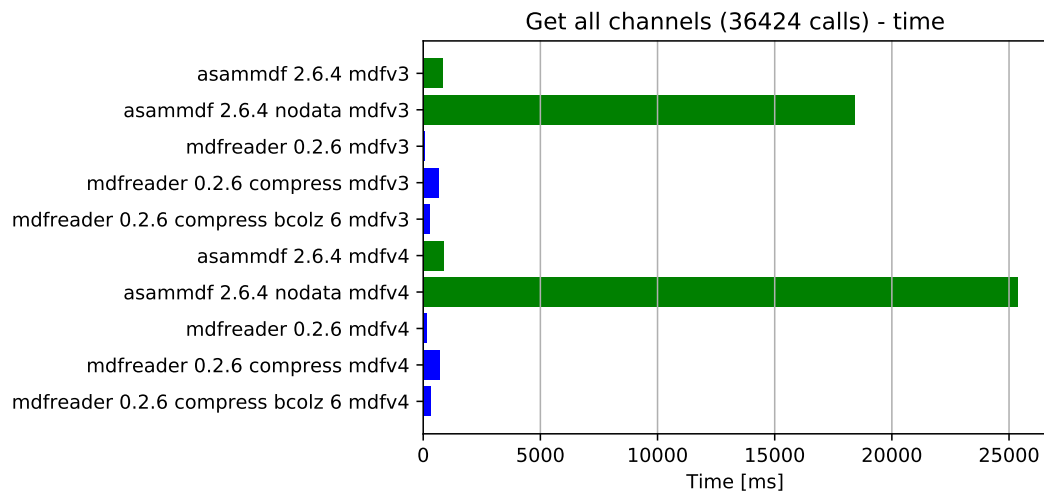
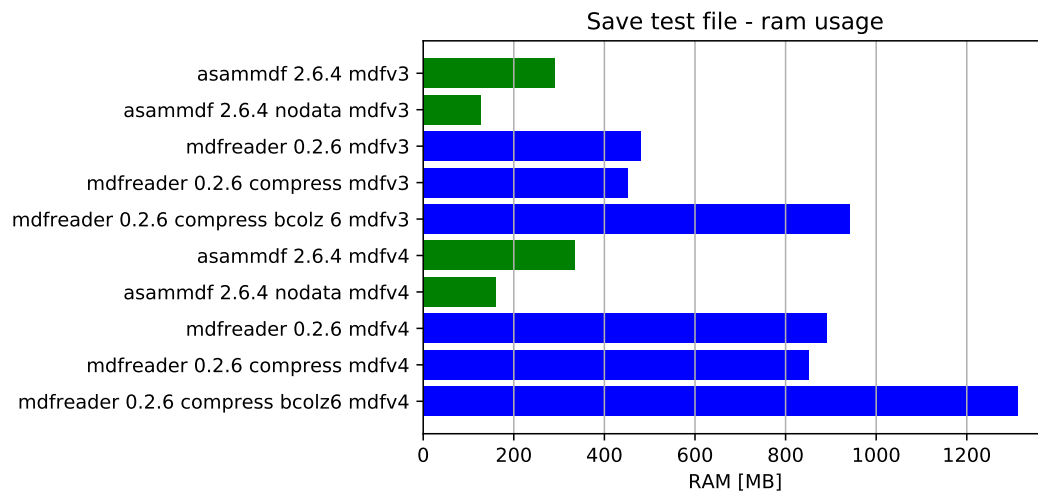
| Convert file | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 to v4 | 4389 | 680 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 to v4 nodata | 26231 | 472 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 to v3 | 4586 | 681 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 to v3 nodata | 34042 | 622 |

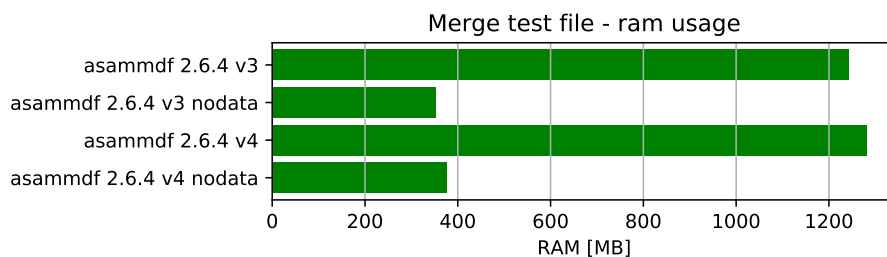
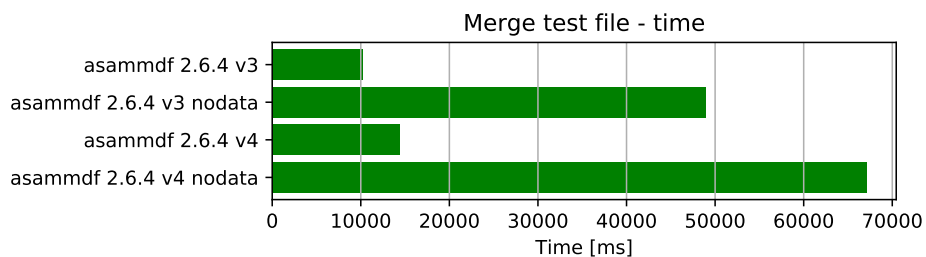
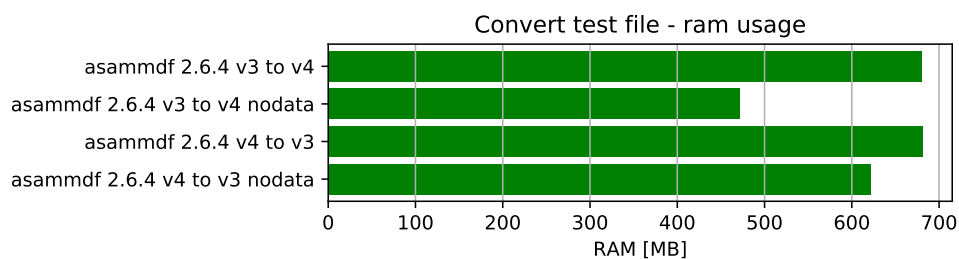
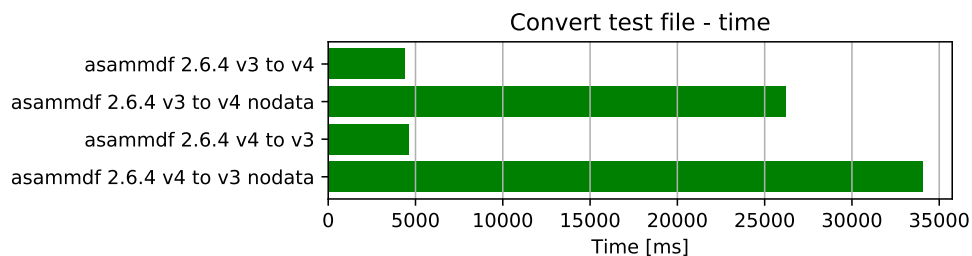
| Merge files | Time [ms] | RAM [MB] |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 | 10262 | 1243 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v3 nodata | 48898 | 352 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 | 14443 | 1281 |
| asammdf 2.6.4 v4 nodata | 67092 | 377 |

Graphical results









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