

Plug-in 'SpecParser'

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Type Plug-in

Title SpecParser, Plug-in for JDemetra+: User guide

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Depends JDemetra+ 2.1.0, Java 7 or higher

Repository <https://github.com/bbkrd/SpecParser>

BugReports <https://github.com/bbkrd/SpecParser>

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Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1. Overview of the plug-in	3
1.2. Constraints	3
1.3. Differences to X-12ARIMA	3
1.4. Installing and navigating to the plug-in	3
1.5. How to use this guide	4
2. Quick start	5
3. Function guide	6
3.1. General	6
3.2. Single mode	7
3.3. Multi mode	7
A. Component type allocation of regression variables	9

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview of the plug-in

For the changeover from X-12ARIMA to JDemetra+ (JD+) the SpecParser is an useful plug-in in JD+ for automatic specification translation. Existing seasonal adjustment processings for X-12ARIMA can easily be migrated to JD+.

The following modes are possible:

Single mode	Translation of a single spc-file to an x13-document
Multi mode	Translation of an input metafile (mta-file)

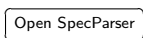
1.2. Constraints

Correctness of files	There is no test or check whether the original specification and data input files to translate are correct or the content makes sense.
File extensions of specification files	Only specification files ending with .spc are supported. Meta-files ending with .mta are supported, but the referenced files have to end with .spc.

1.3. Differences to X-12ARIMA

Separator for spec arguments	In spc files for X-12ARIMA it is possible to have more than one argument in one line separated by a blank. The SpecParser accepts just one argument in a line.
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1.4. Installing and navigating to the plug-in

To install the SpecParser plug-in navigate, **Tools ►Plugins** from the drop down menus. For more information see "JDemetra+ Reference Manual". If the SpecParser plug-in has been successfully loaded you should be able to see a new button  when you right-click on an x13- or a multi-document.

1.5. How to use this guide

This guide is split into two sections, a quick start guide and a function guide.

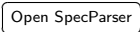

Quick start	Provides an overview how to use the plug-in.
Function guide	Provides details how to use the plug-in and gives useful hints.

2. Quick start

The SpecParser can be used for both modes in the same manner.

The difference is in the kind of documents which you like to translate. For translating a single spc-file choose an x13-document in the JD+ workspace. For translating an mta-file with many spc-files choose a multi-document.

Steps

1. Right-click on the document in the JD+ workspace window and push the button  in the context menu.
2. An empty SpecParser window will be opened. (There are different windows for single and multi mode.)
3. For both modes exists a button  on the top. When you click on this button a file manager will be opened. Here you can search for your document (.spc or .mta).
4. The translation starts automatically. At the bottom you can see the progress.
5. When the SpecParser is finished you get the message: Translation completed.
6. In the SpecParser window you can find the translated specification on the right hand side and a translation report at the bottom.
7. The results are stored in the chosen document of the JD+ workspace. Regression variables can be found in the JD+ workspace at **Utilities ► Variables ► reg.SpecParser**

3. Function guide

3.1. General

Format of data input	X-12ARIMA allows to use different data input formats. The SpecParser supports the most important formats: free and datevalue. For further details of the formats have a look in the Reference Manual of X-12ARIMA.
Translation report	<p>There are differences in both softwares, e.g. missing specifications, different default values or calculations. The translation report informs you about possible reasons of differences in the results.</p> <p>There are three kinds of translation report notifications:</p> <p>Errors no translation possible, e.g. there is no data</p> <p>Warnings results of JD+ and X-12ARIMA are likely to differ</p> <p>Messages for information only</p>
Start argument	The SpecParser loads all available data in the JD+ workspace independent of the start argument. The start argument will be transformed into span.
List of variables	<p>There is just one variables list in <code>Utilities</code> called <code>reg_SpecParser</code> for the regression variables no matter how often the SpecParser is used in the current workspace.</p> <p>The name of the regression variable is defined in the <code>user</code> argument. If there is already a regression variable with the same name but with different values in the list of <code>reg_SpecParser</code>, the second variable gets an appendix with a counter on its name, e.g. <code>myReg[1]</code></p>
Allocation of regression variables	There are different locations in the X-12 algorithm where the regression variables have a stake in the results. Two modes are available in the SpecParser options:

Regular This is the default setting. The allocation is as in X-12ARIMA. The regression variables set in the JD+ regression specification at and get their component type allocation from the `usertype` argument. For more details see table A.1 on page 9.

In calendars If this setting is chosen, the regression variables set in the JD+ regression specification at **Calendars ►tradingDays ►UserDefined**. All regressors are allocated to a calendar (see tabel A.2 on page 9).

3.2. Single mode

Denotation	The x13-document gets the name of the spc-file.
Spec is modifiable	The loaded specification file is shown in a text area of the Spec-Parser window. Here you can change the content of the spc-file. To translate the changes click on the button <input type="button" value="Refresh JD+Spec"/> . But you have to close the x13-document before, there is no automatic update for the graphical interface.

3.3. Multi mode

Denotation	The multi-document gets the name of the mta-file. The single series get their name from the input of the mta-file.
List of mta input	The list consists of defined spc-files in the mta-file. For each specification the translation report is shown when you mark the list item. With a double click on an item the single SpecParser window will be opened with the specification input and you can modify this.
Highlighted items	The highlighting depends on the translation report:

Red There are one or more errors.

Orange There are one or more warnings, but no error.

Yellow There are just one or more messages.

Green There are no messages, warnings or errors.

Refresh of input data There is no possibility to refresh the input data (series and regression variables) loaded by the SpecParser. But you can exchange the data in the translated document by loading the data in the provider window and drag'n'drop it in the document.

A. Component type allocation of regression variables

X-12ARIMA spc-file	JD+ specification	Component type	Algorithm table
usertype = td	Regression ►Calendar ►UserDefined	-	A6
usertype = user # user = final	Regression ►User-defined variables	Irregular	A8i
usertype = user user = final		Series	A9ser
usertype = seasonal		Seasonal	A8s
usertype = ls		Trend	A8t
usertype = holiday		Undefined	A9u (?)

Table A.1.: Allocation of regression variables (regular mode)

X-12ARIMA spc-file	JD+ specification	Algorithm table
usertype = td	Regression ►Calendar ►UserDefined	A6
usertype = user # user = final		
usertype = user user = final		
usertype = seasonal		
usertype = ls		
usertype = holiday		

Table A.2.: Allocation of regression variables (calendar mode)