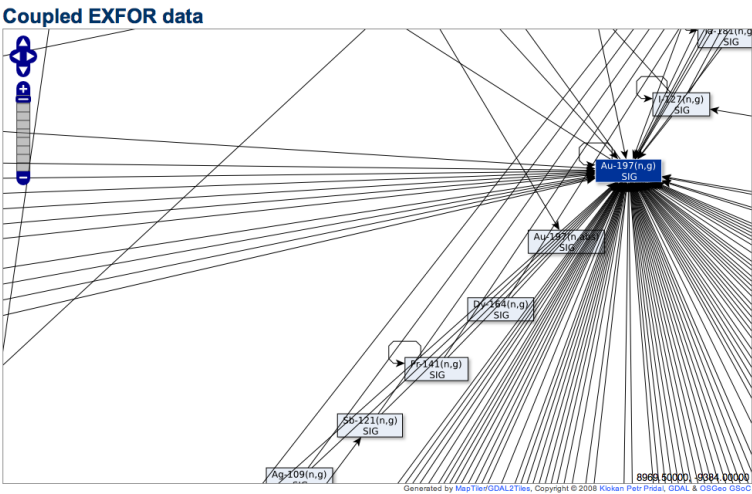


x4i, The EXFOR interface

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1 Introduction

The `x4i` package is an interface to the EXFOR nuclear data library. It simplifies retrieval of EXFOR entries and can automatically parse them, allowing one to extract cross-section (and other) data in a simple, plotable format. `x4i` also understands and can parse the entire reaction string, allowing one to build a strategy for processing the data.

EXFOR is a structured markup language for representing measured nuclear data. It is an old format, and is awkward to use for several reasons:

- It relies on data being in the correct columns in order to denote context. This is a legacy feature since EXFOR data used to be stored on FORTRAN punch cards.
- The data was often hand entered so the format rules were not always rigorously obeyed (fortunately WPEC SubGroup 30 has remedied much of this ensuring that EXFOR data can be translated into C4 format, see ref. [2]).
- The mark-up language is surprisingly complex (see refs. [3, 4, 5, 6]). Figures 1-5 illustrate the structure of the EXFOR format.

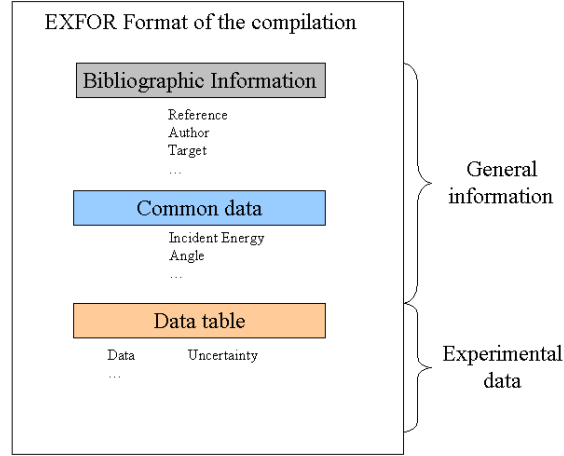


Figure 1: Structure of an EXFOR entry. The bibliographic information is always contained in the first subentry of an entry and given the index '001'. Common data is data common to all data blocks in all subentries and is found in the '001' subentry. Each dataset is given its own subentry, beginning with subentry '002.' Figure from ref. [1].

REQUEST	0697001	20051219	3	143041	0	0	0
ENTRY	30520	040911			30520000	1	
SUBENT	30520001	040911			30520001	1	
RIB	12	10			30520001	2	
INSTITUTE	(3RUMUC)				30520001	3	
REFERENCE	(J,JAC,12,399,79)				30520001	4	
	(B,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.				30520001	5	
AUTHOR	(B,GRABCEV,S.TODIREANU,V.CIOCA)				30520001	6	
TITLE	TOTAL THERMAL NEUTRON CROSS-SECTIONS OF AL,SI,CU,ZN,GE				30520001	7	
	FE AND SI SINGLE CRYSTALS.				30520001	8	
EXP-YEAR	(77)				30520001	9	
FACILITY	(CHOF8,3RUMUC)				30520001	10	
INC-SOURCE	(REAC) VVR-8 REACTOR.				30520001	11	
METHOD	(TQF)				30520001	12	
	TRANSMISSION MEASUREMENT.				30520001	13	
	IN ORDER TO REMOVE COHERENT EFFECTS, THE MEASUREMENTS				30520001	14	
	WERE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES AFTER SLIGHT REORIENTATION				30520001	15	
	OF THE SAMPLE IN THE NEUTRON BEAM.				30520001	16	
MONITOR	ABSOLUTE, TRANSMISSION MEASUREMENT.				30520001	17	
STATUS	HISTORICAL DATA FROM B.GRABCEV AS PRIV.COMM.,79/11/26.				30520001	18	
HISTORY	(800108C) KO.				30520001	19	
ERR-ANALYS	STANDARD DEVIATION IS GIVEN.				30520001	20	
RESULTS	10				30520001	21	
DOO-COMMON	0	0			30520001	22	
DOO-SUBENT	21				30520001	23	
SUBENT	30520002	040911			30520002	1	
RIB	2	2			30520002	2	
REACTION	(13-AL-27 (n,TOT),310)				30520002	3	
SAMPLE	SINGLE CRYSTAL AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.				30520002	4	
ENCL-IB	2				30520002	5	
COMMON	1	2			30520002	6	
TEMP					30520002	7	
DOO-X					30520002	8	
2.97000E+02					30520002	9	
DOO-COMMON	3				30520002	10	
DATA	3	15			30520002	11	
EN	DATA	DATA-ERR			30520002	12	
SV	0				30520002	13	
4.0000E-03	0.0000E-01	4.0000E-02			30520002	14	
4.9200E-03	6.2000E-01	8.0000E-02			30520002	15	
5.5400E-03	6.2000E-01	7.8000E-02			30520002	16	

Bibliographic
information

Line index

Figure 2: A close-up on the first subentry showing the bibliographic data. Figure from ref. [1].

REQUEST	8697001	20051219	3	143041	0	0	0
ENTRY	30528	840911			30528000	1	
SUBENT	30528001	840911			30528001	1	
RIB	12	18			30528001	2	
INSTITUTE	(SRIMBOC)				30528001	3	
REFERENCE	(J.JAC,12,399,79)				30528001	4	
	(P,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.				30528001	5	
AUTHOR	(B.GRABCEV, S.TODIREANU, V.CIOCA)				30528001	6	
TITLE	TOTAL THERMAL NEUTRON CROSS-SECTIONS OF AL, Si, Cu, Zn, Ge				30528001	7	
	FE AND SI SINGLE CRYSTALS.				30528001	8	
EXP-YEAR	(77)				30528001	9	
FACILITY	(CHOF5, SRIMBOC)				30528001	10	
INC-SOURCE	(REAC) VVR-3 REACTOR.				30528001	11	
METHOD	(TOP)				30528001	12	
	TRANSMISSION MEASUREMENT.				30528001	13	
	IN ORDER TO REMOVE COHERENT EFFECTS, THE MEASUREMENTS				30528001	14	
	WERE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES AFTER SLIGHT REORIENTATION				30528001	15	
	OF THE SAMPLE IN THE NEUTRON BEAM.				30528001	16	
	ABSOLUTE, TRANSMISSION MEASUREMENT.				30528001	17	
STATUS	NUMERICAL DATA FROM B.GRABCEV AS PRIV.COMM., 79/11/26.				30528001	18	
HISTORY	(800108C) KO.				30528001	19	
REFERENCES	STANDARD DEVIATION IS GIVEN.				30528001	20	
END IN	18				30528001	21	

Figure 3: An even closer look at the details of the bibliographic data. Here one can see how the authors' names, institutions and publication information are specified. Figure from ref. [1].

REQUEST	8697001	20051219	3	143041	0	0	0
ENTRY	30113	490200			30113000	1	
SUBENT	30113001	490200			30113001	1	
RIB	15	23			30113001	2	
TITLE	CORRELATION BETWEEN NEUTRON CROSS AND FISSILE REACTION						
	FOR LEAD-208						
AUTHOR	(I.VANDEL, J.CHEAL, J.BENNETT)						
INSTITUTE	(ORNL)						
REFERENCE	(J.NE, 44, 1000) DATA DISCREPANCY, DATA						
	(J.NE, 44, 1000) DATA DISCREPANCY, DATA						
	(J.NE, 44, 1000) DATA DISCREPANCY, DATA						
	(P,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.						
	(P,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.						
	(P,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.						
	(P,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.						
	(P,INDC(SEC)-61,305,7710) NO DATA GIVEN.						
ENTRY	LEAD-208 CROSS SECTION DATA FOR LEAD-208						
	END						
ENDTOP	ABSOLUTE MEASUREMENTS						
PRECEDENCE	1						
END-DOCK	END-DOCK						
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DISPERION	THE DATA HERE WERE CALCULATED FOR HEATING.			22117061	40
EXP-ANALYSIS	DATA FROM STATISTICAL ERRORS (DEL - IN ADDITION THERE ARE STATISTICAL ERRORS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED TO 0.5 PERCENT FOR ALL MEASUREMENTS EXCEPT ON WHERE IT IS ESTIMATED TO 0-0.5 PERCENT.			22117061	39
	DATA OBTAINED FROM MAIN REF.			22117061	38
STATUS	(091071) N.O.			22117061	37
HISTORY	(091211) (091211)			22117061	36
ENDSIZE	52			22117061	35
NOCOMMON	0	0		22117061	34
DISPERION	16	16		22117061	33
SUBENT	2211705	(N, T911)		22117061	32
EXP	(13-AL-27(N, T911), 818)			22117061	31
STATUS	DATA OBTAINED FROM MAIN REF.			22117061	30
HISTORY	(091071) N.O.			22117061	29
	(091211)			22117061	28
ENDSIZE	4			22117061	27
NOCOMMON	0	0		22117061	26
DATA	2	22		22117061	25
EN	DATA	DATA-ERR		22117061	24
	NEW			22117061	23
1.6000E+02	6.8200E+02	1.4000E+01		22117061	22
1.8000E+02	1.1700E+02	1.4000E+01		22117061	21
2.0000E+02	5.6200E+02	1.3000E+01		22117061	20
2.2000E+02	5.7500E+02	1.3000E+01		22117061	19
2.4000E+02	5.7300E+02	1.2000E+01		22117061	18
2.6000E+02	5.4500E+02	1.2000E+01		22117061	17
2.8000E+02	5.5000E+02	1.2000E+01		22117061	16
3.0000E+02	5.7000E+02	1.2000E+01		22117061	15
3.2000E+02	5.7000E+02	1.3000E+01		22117061	14
3.4000E+02	5.7400E+02	1.3000E+01		22117061	13
3.6000E+02	5.8000E+02	1.3000E+01		22117061	12
3.8000E+02	5.8000E+02	1.6000E+01		22117061	11
4.0000E+02	5.8000E+02	1.7000E+01		22117061	10
4.2000E+02	5.9000E+02	1.8000E+01		22117061	9
4.4000E+02	5.9700E+02	1.8000E+01		22117061	8
4.6000E+02	6.9300E+02	1.7000E+01		22117061	7
4.8000E+02	6.4100E+02	1.7000E+01		22117061	6
5.0100E+02	6.2500E+02	1.4000E+01		22117061	5
5.2100E+02	6.2100E+02	1.4000E+01		22117061	4
5.4000E+02	6.2000E+02	1.0000E+01		22117061	3
5.5900E+02	6.3000E+02	1.3000E+01		22117061	2
5.7500E+02	6.6000E+02	3.1000E+01		22117061	1
ENDSIZE	24			221170599999	44
ENCURRENT	33			221170599999	43
ENCURRENT	2			221170599999	42
ENCURRENT	1			221170599999	41

Figure 5: A sample DATA section. DATA sections contain the actual data from a measurement. This is combined with the data in COMMON data to produce an instance of the `X4DataSet` class detailed later in this report. Figure from ref. [1].

2 Installation

There are several ways to install **x4i**. They are given below in order of increasing difficulty.

2.1 Easiest installation: using pip and git

```
host$ pip install git+https://github.com/brown170/x4i -v
```

This version of the installation process automatically installs the 2021-03-08 version of the EXFOR database. As **x4i** must rebuild the database, installation may take some time.

2.2 Installation from a tarball distribution

1. Unpack the distribution

2. Installation options:

- Old-fashioned local installation: put **x4i** in your `$PYTHONPATH`. Assuming you are in the directory containing **x4i**'s `setup.py` file:

```
host$ export PYTHONPATH=$PYTHONPATH:`pwd`
```

- Installation with pip (You can delete the **x4i** project once this is complete)

```
host$ pip install path/to/x4i/setup.py/directory
```

- Editable pip installation

```
host$ pip install -e path/to/x4i/setup.py/directory
```

- For site-wide installation. Assuming you are in the directory containing **x4i**'s `setup.py` file (You can delete the **x4i** project once this is complete):

```
host$ sudo python setup.py install
```

2.3 Source installation from git

This assumes that you will be editing the project in some fashion. This installation does not automatically include the IAEA data files. You will need to download them yourself as described in step #3. below.

1. Clone the project

```
host$ git clone https://github.com/brown170/x4i.git
```

2. Installation options:

- Old-fashioned local installation: put `x4i` in your `$PYTHONPATH`. Assuming you are in the directory containing `x4i`'s `setup.py` file:

```
host$ export PYTHONPATH=$PYTHONPATH:`pwd`
```

- Editable installation using pip:

```
host$ pip install -e path/to/x4i/setup.py/directory
```

3. To get the EXFOR library from the IAEA, run the install script. This will install the 2021-03-08 version. Assuming you are in the directory containing `x4i`'s `setup.py` file, do:

```
host$ ./install.py
```

3 Upgrading

To update or change the source database, you will need a copy of the new database from the IAEA. It is available as a zipfile downloaded from the IAEA website: <http://www-nds.iaea.org/x4toc4-master/>. There are two sets of files there. Those with the name of the form `X4-YYYY-MM-DD.zip` are the ones usable by `x4i`. To install the IAEA library, assuming that your zip file is named `X4-YYYY-MM-DD.zip`:

```
$host python bin/setup-exfor-db.py --x4c4-master ~/Downloads/X4-2019-07-18.zip
13535: (1991) A.Ling, X.Aslanoglou, et al.
13564: (1970) J.Taylor, G.Spalek, et al.
13597: (1995) S.K.Ghorai, P.M.Sylva, et al.
13550: (1992) C.M.Castaneda, R.Gearhart, et al.
13501: (1991) R.R.Winters, R.F.Carlton, et al.
13511: (1991) C.M.Perey, F.G.Perey, et al.
13540: (1989) S.Nath, G.Glass, et al.
13587: (1993) R.Macklin, N.W.Hill, et al.
...
```

Please read the help message (`python bin/setup-exfor-db.py -h`) for more information. After you finish this step, be sure to update the information in the `x4i/data/database_info.json` file.

4 Basic Usage

Now we describe how to use `x4i`. We begin by explaining how to query the EXFOR database and how to retrieve data. All retrievals and queries are handled by the classes in the `exfor_manager` module. The class `X4DBManagerDefault` defaults to the `X4DBManagerPlainFS` class and this is the class supported out of the box by `x4i`. Here is an example of its use:

```
Python 3.7.3 (default, Mar 30 2019, 03:37:43)
[Clang 10.0.0 (clang-1000.11.45.5)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> from x4i import exfor_manager
>>> db = exfor_manager.X4DBManagerDefault()
>>> help(db)
Help on X4DBManagerPlainFS in module x4i.exfor_manager object:

class X4DBManagerPlainFS(X4DBManager)
|   X4DBManagerPlainFS(**kw)
|
|   EXFOR data base manager for data stored on local filesystem in
|   directory hierarchy.
|
|   Method resolution order:
|       X4DBManagerPlainFS
|       X4DBManager
|       builtins.object
|
|   Methods defined here:
|
|   __init__(self, **kw)
|       Initialize self.  See help(type(self)) for accurate signature.
|
|   query(self, author=None, reaction=None, target=None, projectile=None,
|         quantity=None, product=None, MF=None, MT=None, C=None, S=None,
|         I=None, SUBENT=None, ENTRY=None, reference=None)
|       Use this function to search for all (Sub)Entries matching
|       criteria in query call.  This function returns a dictionary
|       with the following structure::
|
|           { ENTRY:[ SUBENT001, SUBENT002, SUBENT003, ... ], ... }.
|
|       Here ENTRY is the entry number whose subentries match the query.
|       The SUBENT001 is the documentation subentry number, which is
|       always included, and SUBENT002, ... are the subentry numbers
|       matching the search criteria.
|
|   retrieve(self, author=None, reaction=None, target=None,
|            projectile=None, quantity=None, product=None, MF=None,
```



```

|         MT=None, C=None, S=None, I=None, SUBENT=None,
|         ENTRY=None, rawEntry=False, reference=None)
| Execute a query, matching the criteria specified.
| This function returns a dictionary with the following
| structure::
|
|         { ENTRY:[ SUBENT001, SUBENT002, SUBENT003, ... ], ... }.
|
| Here ENTRY is the entry number whose subentries match the
| query. The SUBENT001 is the documentation subentry itself,
| which is always included, and SUBENT002, ... are the
| subentries themselves matching the search criteria.
|
| If the flag rawEntry is True, the raw text versions of the
| SUBENTs will be returned, otherwise they will be converted
| to X4Entry instances.
|
| ...

```

Once the database manager is initialized, we can run a query:

```

>>> db.query(author='Panitkin')
{'40121': ['40121001', '40121002'], '40177': ['40177001',
'40177002', '40177003'], '41335': ['41335001', '41335002'],
'41654': ['41654001', '41654002']}

```

All queries return a Python `dict`. The keys of the dictionary are the EXFOR entry number. The values of the dictionary are a list of subentry numbers of the EXFOR entry whose contents match the query search criteria. If a particular subentry matches the search criteria, the corresponding documentation subentry (the '001' subentry) is also returned. The complete list of search criteria are given in Table 1. A partial list of searchable observables is given in Table 2.

Retrievals also can be made using the database manager:

```

>>> r=db.retrieve(author='Panitkin')

```

The search result from a retrieval is a Python `dict`. The keys are the ENTRY number (as a string) and the values are `X4Entry` instances:

```

>>> for k in r:
...     print(k)
...
40121
40177

```

Table 1: Valid search keys for queries and retrievals from the EXFOR database manager classes. One key not mentioned in this table is the recently added **reference** key.

Search Criteria	Details	Implemented in version 1.0
author	Only one author may be specified and only the family name should be given. Proper capitalization must be used.	Yes
reaction	Enter in form "projectile,products," e.g. N, 2N or N, F or D, 3N+P. Wildcards may be used, e.g. *, 2N.	Yes
target	Enter in form "SYM-Z," e.g. HE-3. The symbol should be in upper case.	Yes
projectile	The standard ENDL set are supported, namely: N, P, D, T, A, G, HE-3. Additionally, the projectile may be any nucleus of form "SYM-Z" (provided such heavy-ion data exists in EXFOR).	Yes
quantity	This defines the observable, e.g. cross-section is SIG. Table 2 lists the supported quantities.	Yes
product	Residual nucleus (if any) of a particular reaction. Enter in form "SYM-Z," e.g. HE-3. The symbol should be in upper case.	Yes, partially
MF	The ENDF quantity, e.g. MF=3 is cross-section data.	No
MT	The ENDF reaction, e.g. MT=18 is fission.	No
C	The ENDL reaction, e.g. C=12 is (n,2n).	No
S	The ENDL reaction modifier, e.g. S=1 denotes discrete level excitations.	No
I	The ENDL quantity, e.g. I=1 denote angular probability distributions, P(E μ).	No
SUBENT	The EXFOR Subentry number. It is 8 characters long and the last 3 digits specify the subentry within the EXFOR entry corresponding to the first 5 characters.	Yes
ENTRY	The EXFOR Entry number. It is 5 characters long.	Yes

Table 2: A selection of supported quantities. The full list is given in EXFOR dictionary 30 (see ref. [4])

Quantity	Details	Variations on quantity supported	Simplified translation of data available
DA	Angular distribution $d\sigma(E)/d\mu$	EVAL	Yes
DA/DE	Double differential data $d\sigma(E)/d\mu dE'$		No, high priority
DE	Energy distribution $d\sigma(E)/dE'$	EVAL	Yes
FY	Fission yields		No
NU	Average number of neutrons emitted in fission event $\bar{\nu}(E)$	EVAL, PR	Yes
NU/DE	Fission neutron spectrum $d\bar{\nu}(E)/dE'$		No
POL/DA	Polarization		No, high priority
POT	Potential scattering parameter		No
RI	Resonance integral of cross-section		No
SIG	Cross-section $\sigma(E)$ or average cross-section in some variations of this observable.	EVAL, MXW, SPA, FST, RTE, FIS, AV	Yes

```

41335
41654
>>> type(r[40121])
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 40121
>>> type(r['40121'])
<class 'x4i.exfor_entry.X4Entry'>

```

The `X4Entry` class is a member of the `exfor_entry` module and handles all of the parsing of an EXFOR ENTRY.

In the following section, we will detail some of the things one can do with an `X4Entry` instance. For now, we'll just illustrate how to extract the cross-section data in a format we can plot:

```

>>> x=db.retrieve(target="PU-239", reaction="N,2N", quantity="SIG")
>>> x.keys()
dict_keys(['13787', '14129', '20795', '21971'])
>>> x['14129']
ENTRY      14129
SUBENT      14129001
BIB          12          20
INSTITUTE   (1USALAS,1USALRL)
REFERENCE   (J,NSTS,2,(1),620,2002)
AUTHOR      (J.A.Becker,L.A.Bernstein,W.Younes,D.P.Mcnabb,
              P.E.Garrett,D.E.Archer,C.A.McGrath,M.A.Stoyer,H.Chen,
...
>>> y=x['14129']
>>> dss=y.getSimplifiedDataSets()
>>> dss.keys()
dict_keys([('14129', '14129002', ' ')])
>>> print(dss[('14129', '14129002', ' ')])
#  Authors:   J.A.Becker, L.A.Bernstein, W.Younes, D.P.Mcnabb, ...
#  Title:     Partial Gamma-Ray Cross Sections For The Reaction ...
#  Year:      2002
#  Institute: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA
#  Reference: J.Nucl.Science and Technol.Tokyo,Supplement 2, ...
#  Subent:    14129002
#  Reaction:  Cross section for 239Pu(n,2n)238Pu
#           Energy      Data      d(Energy)      d(Data)
#           MeV         barns     MeV            barns
#           6.481       0.1009    0.2239       0.03081
...

```

What we’ve done here is extract all the datasets in our **X4Entry** instance using the `getSimplifiedDataSets()` member function. The results are stored in another Python dict, this time keyed off with a Python tuple with the following structure: (entry #, subentry #, pointer). In this case, there is no pointer so that spot is taken by a string comprising a single space character. In other cases, the pointer may be number either referring to additional data. We will explain this further in the next sections.

5 Main Classes

5.1 The X4Entry class

In this section, we provide a more detailed look into the **X4Entry** class and its use. A partial list of member functions is provided in Table ??.

Let us begin the discussion by picking up where we left off in the previous section’s example. We return to the **X4Entry** in the Python variable ‘y’:

```
>>> y=x['14129']
>>> y.keys()
dict_keys(['14129001', '14129002'])
>>> type(y[1])
<class 'x4i.exfor_subentry.X4SubEntry'>
```

In this simple example, we have illustrated that **X4Entry**s are really Python dicts, with keys being the subentry accession number (in this case, abbreviated to ‘1’) and values being instances of the **X4SubEntry** class. Note that the subentry accession numbers 1, ‘1’, ‘001’, 13883001, and ‘1388301’ are all equivalent. Continuing:

```
>>> y['1'].keys()
dict_keys(['BIB'])
>>> y['1']['BIB'].keys()
dict_keys(['INSTITUTE', 'REFERENCE', 'AUTHOR', 'TITLE', 'FACILITY',
          'INC-SPECT', 'DETECTOR', 'SAMPLE', 'METHOD', 'ANALYSIS',
          'MONITOR', 'HISTORY'])
>>> y['1']['BIB']['REFERENCE'].keys()
dict_keys([' '])
>>> y['1']['BIB']['REFERENCE'][' ']
(J,NSTS,2,(1),620,2002)
>>> str(y['1']['BIB']['REFERENCE'][' '])
'(J,NSTS,2,(1),620,2002)'
```

Clearly `X4Entry`s and `X4SubEntry`s are simply nested Python `dict`s whose keys and values correspond to the structure of the original EXFOR (sub)entry. This example illustrates one other point: the Python `str()` operator returns a “pretty” version of what it acts on. In this case, the reference field of the bibliography section of subentry #1.

There are two other functions to elaborate, the `getSimplifiedDataSets()` and `getDataSets()` function. Both return `dict`s whose values are `X4DataSets`, either “plain” or “simplified.” In the next section we will describe the `X4DataSet` and explain the difference between a “plain” `X4DataSet` and a “simplified” `X4DataSet`. Here we illustrate the use of either function:

```
>>> dss = y.getSimplifiedDataSets()
>>> dss.keys()
dict_keys([('14129', '14129002', ' ')])
```

This function returns a Python `dict` whose keys are a tuple: (`entry #`, `subentry #`, `pointer`). The EXFOR pointer here is a string consisting of a space. In many EXFOR subentries, the EXFOR compilers chose to store multiple datasets. To distinguish them (and to map the data to other fields in the EXFOR entry), the compilers gave the sets a distinct one character pointer. When `x4i` encounters such a case, the `dict` returned from `getSimplifiedDataSets()` will have one key per pointer.

5.2 The `X4DataSet` class

The `X4DataSet` class and its subclasses are probably the class most users of `x4i` will become familiar with first as instances of these classes contain the experimental data one wishes to plot and/or manipulate. In the previous section we introduced two functions in the `X4Entry` class that return `dict`s containing `X4DataSets`. We also introduced the concept of “plain” and “simplified” datasets. Figure 6 shows the `csv` output of the `X4DataSet`, retrieved in the previous section, in its “plain” form and its “simplified” form. As one can see, both contain the same data, but the “simplified” set is in consistent units and extraneous columns have been removed.

As one can see in Figure 6, one can think of an `X4DataSet` as a spreadsheet containing the dataset’s values. Indeed, the Python `__getitem__` operator allows us to directly access elements in this spreadsheet:

```
>>> dss.keys()
dict_keys([('14129', '14129002', ' ')])
>>> myset = dss[('14129', '14129002', ' ')]
```

Table 3: Member function reference for the `X4Entry` class and the `X4EntryMetaData` class. Functions in the `X4EntryMetaData` class are prefixed with the `meta()` call from the `X4Entry` class.

Function	Arguments (other than <code>self</code>)	Description
<code>__str__()</code>		Enables Python <code>str()</code> function: the “pretty” string formatter. Recursively applies <code>str()</code> to all components of <code>self</code> .
<code>__repr__()</code>		Enables Python <code>repr()</code> function: the “representation” string formatter (strings returned by this function are nearly equivalent to the original EXFOR entry). Recursively applies <code>repr()</code> to all components in <code>self</code> .
<code>__getitem__(key)</code>	<code>key</code>	Enables element access with the <code>[]</code> operator (e.g. <code>[key]</code>) Return the <code>X4SubEntry</code> instance with subentry number <code>key</code> .
<code>deleted()</code>		Returns <code>True</code> if this entry has been deleted (a skeletal version of the entry remains in the EXFOR database though).
<code>getDataSets()</code>		Returns a Python dict containing all of the <code>X4DataSets</code> contained in <code>self</code> . The keys of the dict are a tuple: (<code>entry #</code> , <code>subentry #</code> , <code>pointer</code>).
<code>getSimplifiedDataSets()</code>	<code>makeAllColumns = False</code>	Similar to <code>getDataSets</code> except that data has been parsed (if possible), producing a simpler dataset that may be interpreted easier (and plotted!). See <code>X4DataSet</code> below.
<code>meta()</code>		Return an instance of the meta data derived from <code>self</code> .
<code>meta().citation()</code>		Returns a string containing the citation for the current entry. Suitable for publication.
<code>meta().legend()</code>		Returns a string containing information for the current entry. Suitable for use as a plot legend.
<code>meta().xmgraceHeader()</code>		Returns a string containing information for the current entry. Use this as the header for a dataset you are plotting in <code>xmgrace</code> .

Table 4: Column names and units in simplified `X4DataSets`.

Column Label	Units	Comments
Data	barns, barns/ster, 1/MeV ptcls/fis, no-dim	Unit choice depends on nature of the observable. Maybe dimensionless if data is ratio data.
Energy	MeV	Incident energy
E'	MeV	Outgoing energy
Angle	degrees	

	A	B	C	D
1	EN	DATA	DATA-ERR	MONIT
2	MEV	MB	PER-CENT	MB
3	13.8	228	2.8	2112
4	14	219	3.6	2112
5	14.8	214	1.4	2136

	A	B	C
1	Energy	Data	d(Data)
2	MeV	barns	barns
3	13.8	0.228	0.006384
4	14	0.219	0.007884
5	14.8	0.214	0.002996

Figure 6: Difference between a “plain” `X4DataSet` (on the left) and a “simplified” `X4DataSet` (on the right). Note that the units for the simplified set are consistent between a data column and an uncertainty column. Also notice that cross sections are always given in barns and energies in MeV. Table 4 lists all the units supported in “simplified” `X4DataSets`.

```
>>> myset['LABELS', 0]
'Energy'
>>> myset['LABELS', 1]
'Data'
>>> myset['UNITS', 1]
'barns'
>>> myset[0, 1]
0.1009
```

Of course, `X4DataSets` also come with meta data describing the set:

```
>>> myset.legend()
'(2002) J.A.Becker, L.A.Bernstein, et al.'
>>> myset.citation()
'J.A.Becker, L.A.Bernstein, et al., J.Nucl.Science and Technol.Tokyo,
Supplement 2, (1), 620 (2002); Data taken from the EXFOR database,
file EXFOR 14129002 dated 2002, retrieved from the IAEA Nuclear Data
Services website.'
```

Next, we point out the two methods for exporting the data, the `csv()` and the `str()` functions. The `csv()` function exports the dataset to a comma separated value file, suitable for viewing in Microsoft Excel. The `str()` function returns a string that can be viewed in the `xmgrace` plotting package.

Table 5: Member functions reference for the `X4DataSet` class and subclasses.

Function	Arguments (other than <code>self</code>)	Description
<code>__str__()</code>		Enables Python <code>str()</code> function: the “pretty” string formatter.
<code>__repr__()</code>		Enables Python <code>repr()</code> function: the “representation” string formatter (strings returned by this function are nearly equivalent to the original EXFOR).
<code>__getitem__((i,j))</code>	<code>i,j</code>	Access the data element in row <code>i</code> column <code>j</code> . If <code>i = 'LABELS'</code> or <code>'UNITS'</code> , then the corresponding string heading the column is returned.
<code>citation()</code>		Returns a string containing the citation for the current entry. Suitable for publication.
<code>csv(f)</code>	<code>f</code>	Writes data in <code>self</code> to file <code>f</code> in CSV format. The CSV format stands for “Comma Separated Value” and may be read by MS Excel.
<code>getSimplified()</code>	<code>makeAllColumns = False,</code> <code>failIfMissingErrors = False</code>	Returns an <code>X4DataSet</code> that has been “simplified.” See the main text for what that entails. If the optional argument <code>makeAllColumns</code> is <code>True</code> , every data column will be accompanied by an uncertainty column even if one is not present in the original data. If the optional argument <code>failIfMissingErrors</code> is <code>True</code> , an exception will be raised if there is no uncertainty column accompanying one or more data columns.
<code>legend()</code>		Returns a string containing information for the current entry. Suitable for use as a plot legend.

The complete list of member functions for the `X4DataSet` class is given in Table 5.

Finally, we want to elaborate on the implementation of “simplified” `X4DataSets`. When the `getSimplifiedDataSets()` function is called from, it in turn calls the `getDataSets()` function to get all of the data in an `X4Entry`. Then, the `X4DataSet` function `getSimplified()` is called to attempt to convert the `X4DataSet` into its simpler form. Currently very few quantities in EXFOR can be converted to simpler forms. The list as of version 1.0 of `x4i` is given in Table 4.

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