



# **AN INTRODUCTION TO MFRONT: HOW TO IMPLEMENT MATERIAL PROPERTIES**

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# PREAMBLE

MFront is available here:

<https://github.com/thelfer/tfel>

The documentation is available here:

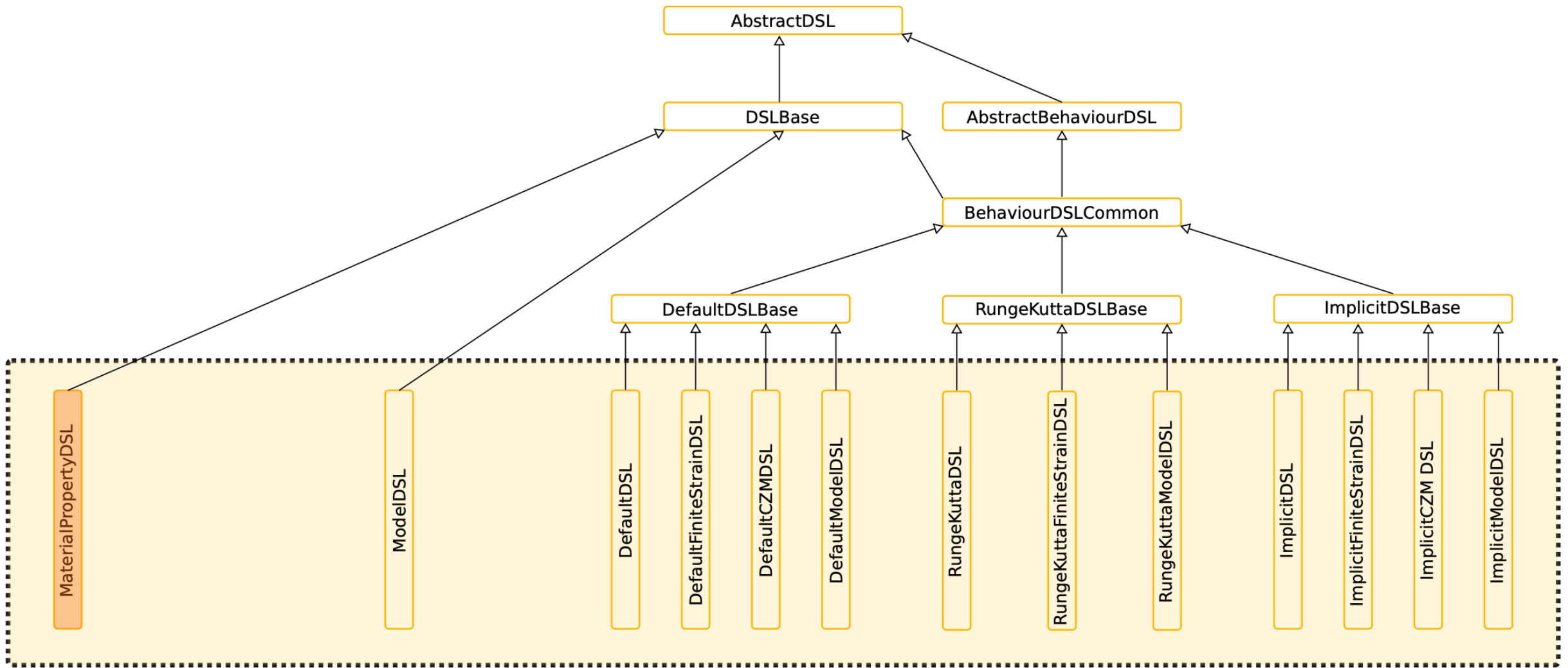
<https://thelfer.github.io/tfel/web/index.html>

This presentation is based on a tutorial available here:

<https://thelfer.github.io/tfel/web/material-properties.html>

and on the ongoing **MFrontbook**

# PREAMBLE



# OUTLINE

## SOME ADVICES AND GOOD PRACTICES TO WORK WITH MFRONT

1. First writing and use of a MFront file with the Python interface
2. Analysis of the MFront file content
3. Improvement and best practices (quality assurance)



# 1



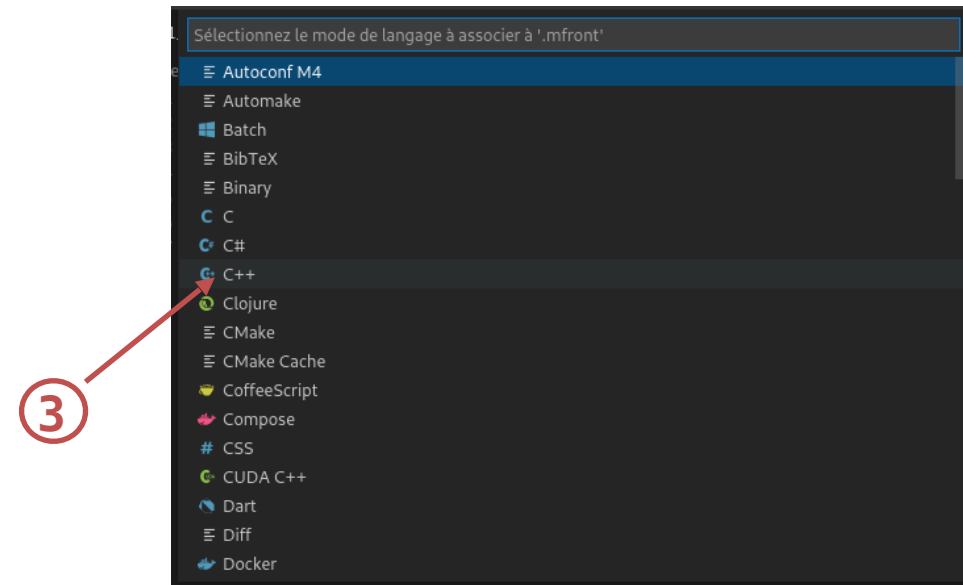
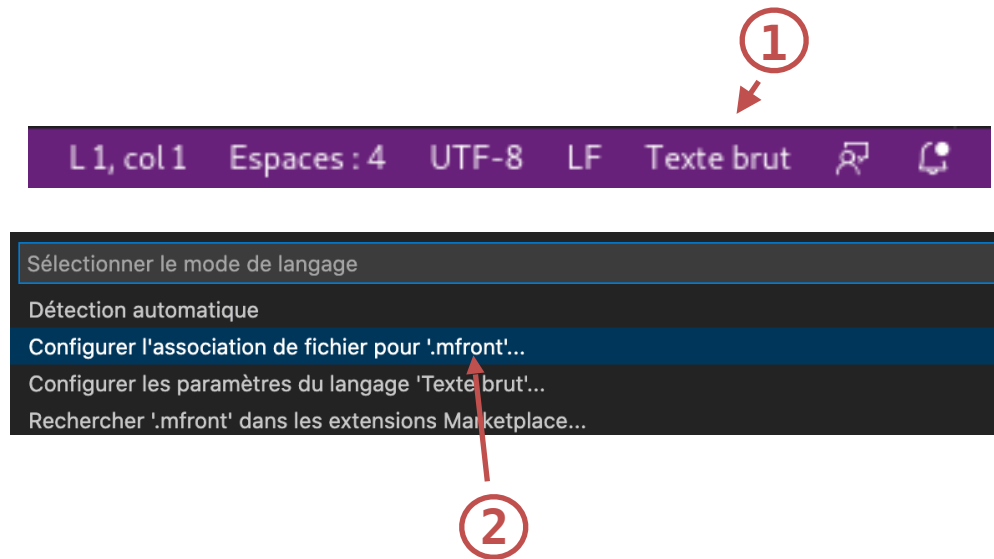
## **FIRST WRITING AND USE OF A MFRONT FILE WITH THE PYTHON INTERFACE**

### **Material Properties**

# FIRST FILE WRITING - CONFIGURATION

Utiliser votre éditeur de texte avec la coloration syntaxique du C++

**Exemple :** Configuration de Visual Studio Code (une fois pour toutes) :



# FIRST FILE WRITING - MFRONT FILE

Young's modulus of Uranium Dioxide<sup>1</sup> :

$$E(T, f) = 2.2693 \cdot 10^{11} (1 - 2.5 f) (1 - 6.786 \cdot 10^{-5} T - 4.23 \cdot 10^{-8} T^2)$$

<sup>1</sup> MARTIN, DG. The elastic constants of polycrystalline UO<sub>2</sub> and (U,Pu) mixed oxides: A review and recommendations. High Temperatures. High Pressures. 1989. Vol. 21, no. 1, p. 13–24.

First `MyFirstMFrontFile.mfront` file:

# FIRST FILE WRITING - MFRONT FILE

Young's modulus of Uranium Dioxide<sup>1</sup> :

$$E(T, f) = 2.2693 \cdot 10^{11} (1 - 2.5 f) (1 - 6.786 \cdot 10^{-5} T - 4.23 \cdot 10^{-8} T^2)$$

<sup>1</sup> MARTIN, DG. The elastic constants of polycrystalline UO<sub>2</sub> and (U,Pu) mixed oxides: A review and recommendations. High Temperatures. High Pressures. 1989. Vol. 21, no. 1, p. 13–24.

First `MyFirstMFrontFile.mfront` file:

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@Input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```



# FIRST FILE WRITING - COMPILATION

**Step 1** - Generate the corresponding C++ files associated to the chosen interface:

```
$ mfront --interface=python MyFirstMFrontFile.mfront
```

TRY...

**Creation of two folders: src/ and include/ with the C++ sources**

These two directories are not working directories, since they are often **deleted**.

**Step 2** - Generate the dynamic library :

```
$ mfront --obuild
Treating target : all
The following library has been built :
- materiallaw.so : MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide
```

TRY...

Name of the library generated  
by MFront in the src folder

Name of the material  
property it contains

Both steps can be performed in a single command:

```
$ mfront --obuild --interface=python MyFirstMFrontFile.mfront
```



# FIRST FILE WRITING - USE WITH PYTHON INTERFACE

Use the library with Python:

Add the src directory to your PYTHONPATH :

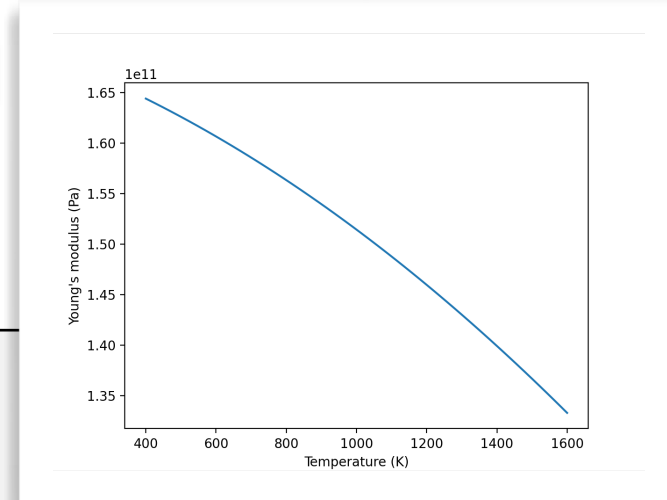
```
$ export PYTHONPATH="${PYTHONPATH}:/my/src/path"
```

or get the subdirectory in your python script:

```
import src.materiallaw as ml
```

```
import materiallaw as ml
import numpy as np
from matplotlib import pyplot as plt

T = np.linspace(400, 1600)
E = np.array([ml.MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide(Ti, 0.1) for Ti in T])
plt.xlabel("Temperature (K)")
plt.ylabel("Young's modulus (Pa)")
plt.plot(T, E)
plt.show()
```



The order of the arguments corresponds to the order of declaration of the @Input (Temperature, Porosity) in the MFront file.



# 2 ■ ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT

# ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT - FIRST KEYWORD

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@Input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

**@DSL (Domain Specific Language):** Tell MFront how to interpret the file :

- ▶ Material Property (**today**)                      -> **MaterialLaw**
- ▶ Material Behaviour                                -> Implicit, ImplicitParser, RungeKutta, etc.
- ▶ Point-wise model                                  -> Model, DefaultModel, ImplicitModel

# ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT - FIRST KEYWORD

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@Input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

**@DSL (Domain Specific Language):** Tell MFront how to interpret the file :

- ▶ Material Property (**today**)                      -> **MaterialLaw**
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- ▶ Point-wise model                                  -> Model, DefaultModel, ImplicitModel



To display the list of available DSLs:

```
$ mfront --list-dsl
```

# ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT - @DSL - DOMAIN SPECIFIC LANGUAGE

Each **DSL** has its conventions and **keywords**, fortunately, they are often common to several DSLs.

To display the list of keywords associated with the DSL MaterialLaw :



```
$ mfront --help-keywords-list=MaterialLaw
```

Each keyword in a DSL is documented:

To display the documentation for the @Law keyword of the MaterialLaw DSL:



```
$ mfront --help-keyword=MaterialLaw:@Law
```

```
The `@Law` keyword allows the user to associate a name to the material  
law being treated. This keyword is followed by a name.
```

# ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT - SECOND KEYWORD

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

**@Law**: defines the name of the material property. Here `MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide` is not a very good choice for the material property name...

To display the documentation of the @Input keyword related to the MaterialLaw DSL:



```
$ mfront --help-keyword=MaterialLaw:@Law
```

# ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT - THIRD KEYWORD

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@Input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

**@Input**: name the input parameters of the material property. No information for the reader...

To display the documentation of the @Input keyword related to the MaterialLaw DSL:



```
$ mfront --help-keyword=MaterialLaw:@Input
```



# ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST FILE CONTENT - FOURTH MOT-CLEF

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@Input T, f;  
@Function{  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

**@Function**: C++ code block used to implement the material property. By default, the block returns the result of the material property in the variable `res` !



# 3 ■ IMPROVEMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

# CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MATERIAL PROPERTY LAW

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide;  
@input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

**@Law**: defines the name of the material property. Here `MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide` which is not a very explicit name...



It is recommended to use explicit name of the material property. For example, add a reference to the original paper from which the law is taken.

```
@Law YoungModulus_Martin1989; // name of the material property
```

# FILE NAME CONSISTENT WITH THE MATERIAL PROPERTY

Choose an explicit name of the file (no need to be identical to @Law name):

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law YoungModulus_Martin1989; // name of the material property  
@input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

It is a good practice to change the name of the MFront file to be consistent with the material property. For example:

**U02\_YoungModulus\_Martin1989.mfront**



# MFRONT FILE ANALYSIS - PAY ATTENTION TO PREVIOUS IMPLEMENTATIONS

Pay attention ! If the file is compiled after changing the name of the @Law:

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;  
@Law YoungModulus_Martin1989; // name of the material property  
@Input T, f;  
@Function {  
    res = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```

Compiling the Mfront file:

```
$ mfront --obuild --interface=python U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989.mfront  
Treating target : all  
The following library has been built :  
- materiallaw.so : MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide YoungModulus_Martin1989
```



Two material properties in the materiallaw.so library

# ASSOCIATE A MATERIAL NAME WITH THE MATERIAL PROPERTY

It is possible to enter the name of the modeled material using the **@Material** keyword:

```
@Material U02; // material name
```

Associating a material name with the material property has two effects:

- changes the name of the function (**U02\_YoungModulus\_Martin1989**)
- change le nom de la librairie (**uo2.so** instead of **materiallaw.so**)

```
$ mfront --obuild --interface=python U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989.mfront
Treating target : all
The following libraries have been built :
- materiallaw.so : MyFirstYoungModulusOfUraniumDioxide YoungModulus_Martin1989
- uo2.so : U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989
```

# CHANGE THE NAME OF THE OUTPUT

It is possible to change the name of the default output to a more explicit name using the **@Output** keyword:

```
@Output E;  
@Function {  
    E = 2.2693e11 * (1 - 2.5 * f) * (1 - 6.786e-05 * T - 4.23e-08 * T * T);  
}
```



# DOCUMENT THE NAMES OF THE INPUTS

The names of the inputs are not explicit (f : porosity ??). To improve the clarity and unambiguity of the MFront file, it is possible to use the TFEL Glossary.

```
@Input T,f;  
T.setGlossaryName("Temperature");  
f.setGlossaryName("Porosity");
```

This also helps the interoperability of the library since the TFEL glossary defines a set of uniquely defined names that can be used to qualify a variable.

If the variable name does not exist in the TFEL glossary : use the method **setEntryName(str)**

Glossary documentation: <https://thelfer.github.io/tfel/web/glossary.html>



# USE OF PARAMETERS

Entering quantities in the form of parameters facilitates:

- sensitivity studies
- taking into account the propagation of uncertainties in the data
- potential re-identifications

```
@Parameter E0 = 2.2693e11;  
@Parameter dE_dT = -1.53994698e7;  
@Parameter d2E_dT2 = -1.9198278e4;  
@Parameter f0 = 0.4;  
  
@Function {  
    E = (1 - f / f0) * (E0 + dE_dT * T + (d2E_dT2 / 2) * T * T);  
}
```

# MODIFICATION OF PARAMETERS

Modification of the parameters with a .txt file:

- the file contains lines: <parameter name> <new parameter value>
- the expected file name in the current directory is given by command:

```
$ mfront-query --parameters-file U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989.mfront  
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989-parameters.txt
```



TRY...

U02\_YoungModulus\_Martin1989-parameters.txt

```
# new material parameters  
E0      2.2693e11  
dE_dT   -1.53994698e7  
d2E_dT2 -1.9198278e4  
f0       0.4
```

# PHYSICAL BOUNDS AND STANDARD BOUNDS (VERY IMPORTANT)

Two types of bounds:

- **Physical bounds** : 
  - prohibit non-physical values (negative temperatures, negative porosity, etc.)
  - **always stop** the calculation if an input value is not physical
- **Standards bounds**: 
  - manage the cases when implemented laws are extrapolated (relevance of the models outside the validity limits)
  - depending on the option, does **nothing**, displays a **warning** or **stops** the calculation if an input value is outside the standard limits.

# USE OF PHYSICAL BOUNDS

## Physical bounds:

- prohibit non-physical values (negative temperatures, negative porosity, etc.)
- **always stop** the calculation if an input value is not physical

It is possible to define physical bounds with the keyword **@PhysicalBounds**:



```
@PhysicalBounds T in [0:*[;  
@PhysicalBounds f in [0:1];
```

TRY...

Evaluate the Young Modulus of UO<sub>2</sub> for a temperature from 400 to 1600 K and a porosity ratio of 1.1 with your Python script.

# USE OF THE PHYSICAL BOUNDS

Let's make a test with  $f > 1$ :

```
from uo2 import U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 as E_U02
import numpy as np
from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
T = np.linspace(400, 1600)
E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 1.1) for Ti in T])
plt.xlabel("Temperature (K)")
plt.ylabel("Young's modulus (Pa)")
plt.plot(T, E)
plt.show()
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File ".../YoungModulus_PhyBounds.py", line 6, in <module>
    E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 1.1) for Ti in T])
  File ".../YoungModulus_PhyBounds.py", line 6, in <listcomp>
    E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 1.1) for Ti in T])
RuntimeError: U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : f is beyond its physical upper bound (1.1>1).
```

# PHYSICAL BOUNDS - AUTOMATIC DECLARATION

The physical bounds are automatically declared using the TFEL glossary and the @UnitSystem keyword:

```
T.setGlossaryName("Temperature");  
f.setGlossaryName("Porosity");  
@UnitSystem SI;
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):  
  File ".../YoungModulus_PhyBounds.py", line 6, in <module>  
    E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 1.1) for Ti in T])  
  File ".../YoungModulus_PhyBounds.py", line 6, in <listcomp>  
    E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 1.1) for Ti in T])  
RuntimeError: U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : f is beyond its physical upper bound (1.1>1).
```

# USE OF STANDARDS BOUNDS

## Standards bounds:

- manage the cases when implemented laws are extrapolated (relevance of the models outside the validity limits)
- depending on the option, does **nothing**, displays a **warning** or **stops the calculation** if an input value is outside the standard limits.

Standard bounds are defined with the keyword **@Bounds**:



```
@Bounds T in [273.15:2610.15]; // Validity range
```

TRY...



Make a test with a temperature  $T > 2610.15$  K

# USE OF STANDARDS BOUNDS

Let's make a test with  $T > 2610.15 \text{ K}$  :

```
from uo2 import UO2_YoungModulus_Martin1989 as E_UO2
import numpy as np
from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
T = np.linspace(400, 3000)
E = np.array([E_UO2(Ti, 0.5) for Ti in T])
plt.xlabel("Temperature (K)")
plt.ylabel("Young's modulus (Pa)")
plt.plot(T, E)
plt.show()
```

The default setting for MFront is to do nothing. Three possible behaviors:

- None : **does nothing** (default)
- Warning : **notifies** the user
- Strict : **stops** the calculation



Different actions on each interface.  
In practice, managed at a higher level.



# USE OF STANDARDS BOUNDS

To test the behavior of MFront when the standard bounds are exceeded, it is possible to change it from the python script:

```
import os
os.environ['PYTHON_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_POLICY'] = 'STRICT'
```

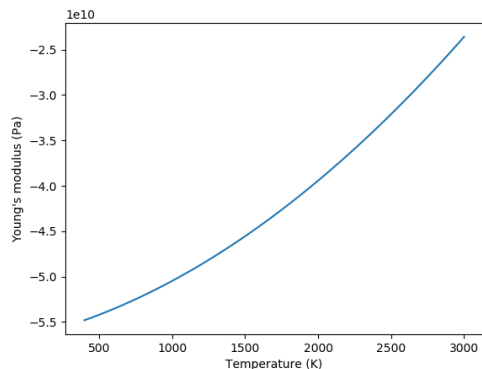
```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File ".../YoungModulus_StdBounds.py", line 6, in <module>
    E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 0.1) for Ti in T])
  File ".../YoungModulus_StdBounds.py", line 6, in <listcomp>
    E = np.array([E_U02(Ti, 0.1) for Ti in T])
RuntimeError: U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2628.57>2610.15)
```

# USE OF STANDARDS BOUNDS - PYTHON EXAMPLE

To test the behaviour of MFront when the standard bounds are exceeded, it is possible to activate warnings from the python script :

```
import os
os.environ['PYTHON_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_POLICY'] = 'WARNING'
```

```
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2628.57>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2681.63>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2734.69>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2787.76>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2840.82>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2893.88>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (2946.94>2610.15).
U02_YoungModulus_Martin1989 : T is over its upper bound (3000>2610.15).
```



# USE OF QUANTITIES

The **@UseQT** keyword allows to do a dimensional analysis at compile time. For example, summing a stress and a strain generates an error at compile time (no influence on the execution performance):

```
const auto a = strain{1e-8};  
const auto b = stress{10e6};  
const auto c = a + b;
```

```
TFEL/Math/Quantity/qtOperations.hxx:302:19: error: static assertion failed:  
invalid operation  
    static_assert(std::is_same_v<UnitType, UnitType2>, "invalid operation");
```

# USE OF QUANTITIES

The **@UseQT** keyword allows to do a dimensional analysis at compile time. For example, summing a stress and a strain generates an error at compile time (no influence on the execution performance):

```
@UseQt true;  
@Input temperature T;  
@Input real f;  
@Parameter stress E0 = 2.2693e11;  
@Parameter real f0 = 0.4;  
@Parameter derivative_type<stress, temperature> dE_dT = -1.53994698e7;  
@Parameter derivative_type<stress, temperature, temperature> d2E_dT2 = -1.9198278e4;  
@Output stress E;
```

List of predefined types:

<https://thelfer.github.io/tfel/web/mfront-types.html>

# CONCLUSION

```
@DSL MaterialLaw;
@Author Author Name;
@Date 11/02/20;
@UseQt true;
@Law YoungModulus_Martin1989; // name of the material property
@Material U02; // material name
@Input temperature T;
@Input real f;
T.setGlossaryName("Temperature"); // T stands for the temperature
f.setGlossaryName("Porosity"); // f stands for the porosity
@PhysicalBounds T in [0:*[;
@PhysicalBounds f in [0:1];
@Bounds T in [273.15:2610.15]; // validity range
@Bounds f in [0:0.4]; // validity range
@Parameter stress E0 = 2.2693e11;
@Parameter real f0 = 0.4;
@Parameter derivative_type<stress, temperature> dE_dT = -1.53994698e7;
@Parameter derivative_type<stress, temperature, temperature> d2E_dT2 = -1.9198278e4;
@Output stress E;
@Function {
    E = (1 - f / f0) * (E0 + dE_dT * T + (d2E_dT2 / 2) * T * T);
}
```