

# ecCodes BUFR decoding

Fortran 90 and Python API – part 1

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# Introduction:

- Fortran 90 subroutines to decode BUFR data
- Python subroutines to decode BUFR data
- Practical examples



# BUFR Fortran API

# ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR

- Open a file according to a mode

call `codes_open_file` (**file**, filename, mode, **status**)

**file:** the opened file to be used in all file functions  
**filename:** name of the file to be open  
**mode:** open mode can be 'r' (read) or 'w' (write)  
**status:** `CODES_SUCCESS` if OK, integer value on error

Input arguments

Output arguments

- Close a file

call `codes_close_file` (**file**, **status**)

**file:** the file to be closed  
**status:** `CODES_SUCCESS` if OK, integer value on error

# Error handling Fortran API

- In case of error, if the `status` parameter (optional) is not given, the program will exit with an error message.
- The error message can be gathered with `codes_get_error_string`.

```
if (status /= 0) then
```

```
    call codes_get_error_string (status, err_msg)  
    print*, 'ecCODES Error: ', trim(err_msg), ' error=', status  
    stop
```

```
end if
```

- Error codes are listed under:  
[http://download.ecmwf.int/test-data/eccodes/html/group\\_errors.html](http://download.ecmwf.int/test-data/eccodes/html/group_errors.html)



# ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR

Input arguments

Output arguments

- Load in memory a message from a file

call `codes_bufc_new_from_file` (`file`, `ibufc`, `status`)

`file`: the file opened with `codes_open_file`

`ibufc`: id of the message loaded in memory

`status`: `CODES_SUCCESS` if OK, `CODES_END_OF_FILE` at the end of file, or error code

The message can be accessed through its message ID and it will be available until `codes_release`.

- Release a BUFR message

call `codes_release`(`ibufc`, `status`)

`ibufc`: the id of the message to be released

`status`: `CODES_SUCCESS` if OK or error code

# ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR

Input arguments

Output arguments

- Get the value of the key in the message

call `codes_get (ibufr, key, value, status)`

**ibufr:** id of the message loaded in memory

**key:** key of a variable

**value:** values of variable/array

**status:** `CODES_SUCCESS` if OK, or error code



**value** can be a integer(4), real(4), real(8) or a character.

Type of the returned values depend on the variable declaration.

integer (kind=4) :: integer\_values

real (kind=8) :: real\_values

character (len=string\_size) :: string\_values

# ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR

Input arguments

Output arguments

- This function supports the **allocatable** array attribute.

call `codes_get (ibufr, key, value, status)`

Type of the returned **value** depend on the array declaration.

```
integer (kind=4),      dimension(:), allocatable :: integer_array  
real      (kind=8),    dimension(:), allocatable :: real_array
```



`if(allocated(array)) deallocate(array)`



# ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR

- Get values of string array

call `codes_get_string_array (ibufr, key, value, status)`

`ibufr`: id of the message loaded in memory

`key`: key of a variable

`value`: values of variable/array

`status`: `CODES_SUCCESS` if OK, or error code



Type of the returned `value` depend on the array declaration.

`character (len=string_size), dimension(:), allocatable :: string_array`

**! The array of strings must be allocated before is passed to `codes_get_string_array`**

`allocate (string_array)`

**! Remember to deallocate**

`if(allocated(string_array)) deallocate(string_array)`

Input arguments

Output arguments

## ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR header

- Getting number of subsets in the message

```
call codes_get(ibufr,'numberOfSubsets',numberOfSubsets)
```

Input arguments

Output arguments

- Getting master table version number

```
call codes_get(ibufr,'masterTablesVersionNumber',masterTablesVersionNumber)
```

- Getting values of expanded descriptors

```
call codes_get(ibufr, 'expandedDescriptors', value, status)
```

- Getting originating Centre

```
call codes_get(ibufr, 'bufrHeaderCentre', value, status)
```

# ecCodes Fortran 'unpack' data section

- We need to instruct ecCodes to unpack the data section

```
call codes_set(ibufr,'unpack',1)
```



Input arguments  
Output arguments

Note: If you do not set 'unpack' and want to read data section ecCodes returns  
ECCODES ERROR : get: latitude Key/value not found



## BUFR API - missing values

- Each element in the data section of a BUFR can be missing.
- ecCodes provides a simple way for the user to check if the value of an element is missing by comparing with two constants:

`CODES_MISSING_LONG` for integer values

`CODES_MISSING_DOUBLE` for real values

The constants are available in Python, Fortran 90 and C and the user needs to compare with the appropriate constant depending on the type of the variable used.



## Handling missing values

- Declare value as double precision

```
real(kind=8), dimension(:), allocatable :: value
```

- Get the values

```
call codes_get(ibufr,'key',value)
```

```
do i=1,size(value)
```

```
!compare with double precision missing
```

```
if (value(i)/=CODES_MISSING_DOUBLE) then
```

```
!process non missing values
```

```
else
```

```
!process missing values
```

```
endif
```

```
end do
```

# ecCodes Fortran decoding BUFR - example

```
call codes_open_file(file, 'filename', 'r')
call codes_bufc_new_from_file(file, ibufc, status)
do while (status/=CODES_END_OF_FILE)
    ! Read the BUFR headers info
    call codes_get(ibufc, 'numberOfSubsets', numberOfSubsets)

    ! unpack the data values
    call codes_set(ibufc, "unpack", 1)

    ! Read the data section
    call codes_get(ibufc, 'latitude', lat)

    ! Release the bufc message
    call codes_release(ibufc)

    ! Load the next bufc message
    call codes_bufc_new_from_file(file, ibufc, status)
end do

call codes_close_file(file)
```

Input arguments  
Output arguments



# BUFR Python API



# Python decoding BUFR

Input arguments  
Output arguments

- Open BUFR file

```
file = open(filename)
```

**file:** the opened file to be used in all file functions

**filename:** name of the file to be opened



- Close BUFR file

```
file.close()
```

**file:** the file to be closed







## Python decoding BUFR

Input arguments  
Output arguments

- Load in memory a message from a file

```
ibufr = codes_bufr_new_from_file(file)
```

**file:** the file opened with `codes_open_file`

**ibufr:** id of the message loaded in memory



The message can be accessed through its message ID in all ecCodes functions calls and it will be available until `codes_release`

- Free the memory for the message referred as `ibufr`

```
codes_release(ibufr)
```



## Python API - Exception handling

All ecCodes functions throw the following exception on error: **CodesInternalError**

**try:**

```
example(output_filename)
```

**except** CodesInternalError as err:

```
sys.stderr.write(err.msg + '\n')
```





# Python decoding BUFR

- Get the value of a scalars from a message

```
value = codes_get(ibufr, key)
```

**ibufr:** id of the message loaded in memory

**key:** key of the variable

**value:** value of variable

Input arguments

Output arguments

- Get the array values of a variable from a message

```
value = codes_get_array(ibufr, key)
```

**ibufr:** id of the message loaded in memory

**key :** key of the variable

**value:** an array as a NumPy array or Python array, tuple, list.



Type of the value can only be integer or float.



# Python decoding BUFR

Input arguments  
Output arguments

- Get the string array from the message

```
value = codes_get_string_array(ibufr, key)
```

**ibufr:** id of the message loaded in memory

**key :** key of the variable

**value:** an string array





## Python decoding BUFR header

- Getting number of subsets in the message

```
numberOfSubsets = codes_get(ibufr, 'numberOfSubsets')
```

Input arguments

Output arguments

- Getting master table version number

```
masterTablesVersionNumber = codes_get(ibufr, 'masterTablesVersionNumber')
```

- Getting values of expanded descriptors

```
expandedDescriptors = codes_get(ibufr, 'expandedDescriptors')
```

- Getting originating Centre

```
centre = codes_get(ibufr, 'bufrHeaderCentre')
```

# ecCodes python 'unpack' data section

Input arguments  
Output arguments

- We need to instruct ecCodes to unpack the data section

```
codes_set(ibufr,'unpack',1)
```



Note: If you not set 'unpack' and want to read data section ecCodes returns

ECCODES ERROR : get: latitude Key/value not found



## Python decoding BUFR - example

```
file = open(filename)

# loop over the messages in the file
while 1:

    ibufr = codes_buftr_new_from_file(file)
    if ibufr is None:
        break

    # Read the BUFR headers info
    numberOfSubsets = codes_get (ibufr, 'numberOfSubsets')
    # unpack the data values
    codes_set(ibufr, 'unpack', 1)

    # Read the data values
    airTemperature = codes_get(ibufr, 'airTemperature')

    codes_release(ibufr)
file.close()
```

Input arguments

Output arguments



## Set up environment

- F90 interface  
use `eccodes`
- Python interface  
`from eccodes import *`
- At ECMWF environment variables `ECCODES_INCLUDE` and `ECCODES_LIB` are used for compilation.





## Compile and run the program

- Fortran 90 interface

```
gfortran -o myprogram myprogram.f90  
$ECCODES_INCLUDE $ECCODES_LIB  
./myprogram
```

- Python interface

```
python myprogram.py
```



# Practical

- Navigate to your \$SCRATCH  
`cd $SCRATCH`
- Copy the material for the practical  
`cp -r ~trx/ecCodes/2018/bufr_api_decode .`
- There are subdirectories for F90 and python  
`cd F90`  
`cd python`
- The directories are named by practical number  
e.g. `cd bufr_decode_practical1`
- Have a look at the README
- Have fun



# Practical 1: Decode SYNOP data

1. Open the **synop.bufr** file in read mode
2. Load message
3. Loop over messages
4. Decode and print:
  - unexpandedDescriptors
  - expandedDescriptors
5. **'unpack'** the data section
6. Decode and print:
  - latitude
  - longitude
  - airTemperature
7. Release the message
8. Close the BUFR file



codes\_open\_file

codes\_bufr\_new\_from\_file

codes\_set (ibufr,'unpack',1)

codes\_get

codes\_release

codes\_close\_file

Try not to set 'unpack'! What is happening?

# Assessing value by rank

Input arguments

Output arguments

## Fortran API

- Reading value of variable by rank

```
call codes_get(ibufr, '#2#key', value, status)
```

## Python API

- Reading value of variable by rank

```
height = codes_get (ibufr, '#2#height' )
```

- Reading array values of variable by rank

```
latitude = codes_get_array (ibufr, '#2#latitude' )
```

## Practical 2: Decode TEMP data

1. Open **temp.bufr** in read mode
2. Load message
3. Loop over messages
4. '**unpack**' the data section
5. Get values for:
  - 'shipOrMobileLandStationIdentifier'
  - 'latitude',
  - 'longitude'
  - 'height'
6. Using accessing variables by rank to decode the second **windSpeed** and **windDirection**
7. Release the message
8. Close the BUFR file



### Helpful Tips

```
codes_open_file
codes_bufr_new_from_file
codes_set (ibufr,'unpack',1)
codes_get
codes_release
codes_close_file
```

## Practical 3: Decode SYNOP data

1. Open the **synop\_2messages.bufr** in read mode
2. Load the messages in memory
3. Loop over messages
4. **'unpack'** the data section
5. Decode and print:  
- **'stationOrSiteName'**
6. Release the message
7. Close the BUFR file



Reminder

In Fortran API

```
character (len=string_size), dimension(:), allocatable :: stationOrSiteName
```

**! The array of strings must be allocated before is passed to codes\_get\_string\_array**

```
call codes_get_size(ibufr,'stationOrSiteName',n)
```

```
allocate (stationOrSiteName(n))
```



Helpful  
Tips

```
codes_open_file
```

```
codes_bufr_new_from_file
```

```
codes_set (ibufr,'unpack',1)
```

```
codes_get
```

```
codes_release
```

```
codes_close_file
```

## Practical 4: Decode SYNOP data

1. Open the **synop\_with\_confidence.buf** in read mode
2. Load the messages in memory
3. Loop over messages
4. **'unpack'** the data section
5. Decode and print:
  - **'nonCoordinatePressure'**
  - its **'percentConfidence'**
6. Release the message
7. Close the BUFR file



How to access confidence??

```
call codes_get(ibufr, 'nonCoordinatePressure->percentConfidence', pressureConfidence)
```



```
codes_open_file  
codes_buf
```

```
codes_buf
```

```
codes_set (ibufr,'unpack',1)
```

```
codes_get
```

```
codes_release
```

```
codes_close_file
```

# References

- ecCodes:

<https://software.ecmwf.int/wiki/display/ECC/ecCodes+Home>

- BUFR tables:

<https://software.ecmwf.int/wiki/display/ECC/BUFR+tables>

- Error codes are listed under:

[http://download.ecmwf.int/test-data/eccodes/html/group\\_\\_errors.html](http://download.ecmwf.int/test-data/eccodes/html/group__errors.html)



