

# Package ‘readNSx’

February 24, 2024

**Title** Read 'Blackrock-Microsystems' Files ('NEV', 'NSx')

**Version** 0.0.4

**Description** Loads 'Blackrock' <<https://blackrockneurotech.com>> neural signal data files into the memory, provides utility tools to extract the data into common formats such as plain-text 'tsv' and 'HDF5'.

**License** MPL-2.0 | file LICENSE

**Language** en-US

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.1

**Imports** data.table, fastmap, hdf5r, jsonlite, R6

**LinkingTo** cpp11

**Suggests** bit64, tools, testthat (>= 3.0.0), knitr, rmarkdown, spelling

**SystemRequirements** C++17, HDF5 (>= 1.8.13), little-endian platform

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Copyright** For the readNSx package: Zhengjia Wang.

**URL** <http://dipterix.org/readNSx/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/dipterix/readNSx/issues>

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Author** Zhengjia Wang [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Zhengjia Wang <[dipterix.wang@gmail.com](mailto:dipterix.wang@gmail.com)>

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## R topics documented:

get_channel	2
get_event	3
get_file_type	4
get_nev	4
get_nsp	5
get_nsx	5
get_specification	6
import_nsp	7
read_bci2000	9

<b>Index</b>	<b>10</b>
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get_channel	<i>Get channel data</i>
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### Description

Obtain channel information and data from given prefix and channel ID.

### Usage

```
get_channel(x, channel_id)
```

### Arguments

x	path prefix specified in <code>import_nsp</code> , or 'nev/nsx' object
channel_id	integer channel number. Please be aware that channel number, channel ID, electrode ID refer to the same concept in 'Blackrock' 'NEV' specifications. Electrodes are not physical metals, they refer to channels for historical reasons.

### Value

A list containing channel data and meta information, along with the enclosing 'NSx' information; for invalid channel ID, this function returns NULL

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get_event	<i>Get event data packets from 'NEV'</i>
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### Description

Get event data packets from 'NEV'

### Usage

```
get_event(x, event_type, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	path prefix (see <a href="#">import_nsp</a> ), or 'nev/nsx' object
event_type	event type to load, common event types are 'digital_inputs' packet identifier 0 'spike' packet identifier 1 to 10000 as of version 3.0 'recording' packet identifier 65529 as of version 3.0, available after version 3.0 'configuration' packet identifier 65530 as of version 3.0, available after version 3.0 'log' packet identifier 65531 as of version 3.0, available after version 3.0 'button_trigger' packet identifier 65532 as of version 3.0, available after version 3.0 'tracking' packet identifier 65533 as of version 3.0, available after version 3.0 'video_sync' packet identifier 65534 as of version 3.0, available after version 3.0 'comment' packet identifier 65535 as of version 3.0, available after version 2.3
...	pass to other methods

### Value

A data frame of corresponding event type, or NULL if event is not found or invalid

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get_file_type	<i>Get 'Blackrock' file type</i>
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**Description**

Reads the first 10 bytes containing file type and version information.

**Usage**

```
get_file_type(path)
```

**Arguments**

path	path to the 'Blackrock' '.nev' or '.nsx' file, or a binary connection.
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**Value**

A list containing file information, including file type, version information, and normalized absolute path.

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get_nev	<i>Load 'NEV' information from path prefix</i>
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**Description**

Load 'NEV' information from path prefix

**Usage**

```
get_nev(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	path prefix specified in <a href="#">import_nsp</a> , or 'nev/nsx' object
...	reserved for future use

**Value**

'NEV' header information if x is valid, otherwise NULL. See Section "'NEV' Data" in [get\\_specification](#)

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get_nsp	<i>Get a collection list containing 'NEV' and 'NSx' headers</i>
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**Description**

Get a collection list containing 'NEV' and 'NSx' headers

**Usage**

```
get_nsp(x)
```

**Arguments**

x	path prefix specified in <a href="#">import_nsp</a> , or 'nev/nsx' object
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**Value**

A list containing 'nev' and imported 'nsx' headers, see [import\\_nsp](#) for details

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get_nsx	<i>Load 'NSx' information from path prefix</i>
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**Description**

Load 'NSx' information from path prefix

**Usage**

```
get_nsx(x, which, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	path prefix specified in <a href="#">import_nsp</a> , or 'nev/nsx' object
which	which 'NSx' to load, for example, which=3 loads 'ns3' headers
...	reserved for future use

**Value**

'NSx' header information if data is found, otherwise returns NULL. See Section "'NSx' Data" in [get\\_specification](#)

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get\_specification      *Get '.nev' or 'nsx' specification*

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### Description

Get '.nev' or 'nsx' specification

### Usage

```
get_specification(version, type = c("nev", "nsx"))
```

### Arguments

version	either character string or a vector of two integers; for example, "2.2", "2.3", c(3, 0). Currently only these three versions are supported since I was unable to find any other versions. Please file an issue ticket if others versions are desired.
type	file type; choices are 'nev' or 'nsx'

### Value

The file specification as a list. The specification usually contains three sections: basic header (fixed length), extended header (dictionary-style), and data packets (data stream). The specification is used to parse the data files.

### 'NEV' Data

A 'NEV' object consists of three sections:

Section 1 contains basic information such as the time-origin of all the time-stamps, the time-stamp sampling frequency, data packets sizes.

Section 2 is extended header containing the configurations of channels, digital signals, etc. For any data packets in section 3, there should be at least one table in this section describing the settings.

section 3 is a collection of event packets such as digital signal inputs ( most likely to be used at version 2.2 or by 'Ripple'), spike waveform, comments (sometimes storing epoch information), etc.

Please be aware that while most common entries can be found across different file versions, some entries are version-specific. If you are making your script general, you need to be very careful handling these differences. For more information, please search for the data specification manual from the 'Blackrock-Microsystems' website.

### 'NSx' Data

A 'NSx' file refers to the data files ending with 'ns1' through 'ns9'. Common types are 'ns2' (sampling at 1000 Hz), 'ns3' (sampling at 2000 Hz), and 'ns5' (sampling at 30,000 Hz).

A 'NSx' file also consists of three sections. Section 1 contains basic information such as the time-origin of all the time-stamps, sampling frequencies, and channel counts within the file. Please be careful that item `time_resolution_timestamp` is not the sampling frequency for signals. This item

is the sampling frequency for time-stamp. To obtain the signal sample rate, divided `time_resolution_timestamp` by period. For example, 'ns3' usually has time-stamp resolution 30,000 and period=15, hence the signal sample rate is  $30000/15=2000\text{Hz}$ .

Section 2 usually contains one and only one channel table of which the number of rows should coincide with number of channels from section 1. Other information such as channel labels, physical connectors, pins, units, filter settings, digital-to-analog conversion are also included. Since `readNSx` always attempts to convert signals in 'volts' or 'milli-volts' to 'micro-volts', the 'units' column might be different to what's actual recorded in the 'NSx' file headers.

Section 3 contains partitions of continuous recording. When imported/loaded from `readNSx`, the digital signals are always converted to analog signals with 'micro-volts' unit. Please use [get\\_channel](#) to get the channel data.

## Examples

```
get_specification(version = c(2,3), type = "nev")
```

```
get_specification(version = "3.0", type = "nsx")
```

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import\_nsp

*Import signal data from 'Blackrock-Microsystems' data files*

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## Description

Please use `import_nsp` to import 'NEV' and 'NSx' files.

## Usage

```
import_nsp(
  path,
  prefix = NULL,
  exclude_events = "spike",
  exclude_nsx = NULL,
  verbose = TRUE,
  partition_prefix = "/part"
)
```

## Arguments

<code>path</code>	path to 'NEV' or 'NSx' files
<code>prefix</code>	path prefix to save data files into
<code>exclude_events</code>	exclude one or more 'NEV' data events, choices are 'spike', 'video_sync', 'digital_inputs', 'tracking', 'button_trigger', 'comment', 'configuration'; default is 'spike' since the spike data takes very long time to parse, and most users might still use their own offline spike-sorting algorithms.

exclude_nsx	excluded 'NSx' types, integer vectors from 1 to 9; for example, exclude_nsx=c(1,2) will prevent 'ns1' and 'ns2' from being imported
verbose	logical or a progress object: when logical, verbose indicates whether to print the progress as messages; when verbose is a progress object, this object must have inc method; examples are Progress in the shiny package, progress2 from dipsaus, or shiny_progress from shidashi
partition_prefix	additional prefix to the data partition; default is "/part"

### Value

A list of configurations, see [get\\_specification](#) for what's contained.

### Examples

```
# Please get your own sample data first. This package does not
# provide sample data for privacy and license concerns :)

if(interactive() && file.exists("sampledata.nev")) {

  library(readNSx)

  # ---- Import for the first time -----
  import_nsp(
    path = "sampledata.nev",
    prefix = file.path(
      "~/BIDSRoot/MyDataSet/sub-YAB/ses-008/ieeg/",
      "sub-YAB_ses-008_task-congruency_acq-NSP1_run-01"
    ),
    exclude_events = "spike", partition_prefix = "/part"
  )

  # ---- Load header information -----
  prefix <- "sub-YAB_ses-008_task-congruency_acq-NSP1_run-01"
  nev <- get_nev(prefix)
  ns3 <- get_nsx(prefix, which = 3)

  # get nev from nsx, or nsx from nev
  get_nev(ns3)
  get_nsx(nev, which = 5)

  # ---- Load channel data
  result <- get_channel(prefix, channel_id = 10)
  channel_signal <- result$channel_detail$part1$data
  channel_signal[]

}
```



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read_bci2000	<i>Read 'BCI2000' recording data</i>
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**Description**

Read 'BCI2000' recording data

**Usage**

```
read_bci2000_header(file)
```

```
read_bci2000(file)
```

**Arguments**

file                    path to the recording data

**Value**

Parsed signal data

**Examples**

```
# Package comes with sample data
file <- system.file("samples", "bci2000_sample.dat", package = "readNSx")
result <- read_bci2000(file)

print(result)

# Notice: v1.0 and v1.1 are different, but all in `Source` section
# sample rate
result$parameters$Source$SamplingRate$value

# Signal data 64 channels x 500 time-points
dim(result$signals)
```

# Index

`get_channel`, [2](#), [7](#)  
`get_event`, [3](#)  
`get_file_type`, [4](#)  
`get_nev`, [4](#)  
`get_nsp`, [5](#)  
`get_nsx`, [5](#)  
`get_specification`, [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [8](#)  
  
`import_nsp`, [2–5](#), [7](#)  
  
`read_bci2000`, [9](#)  
`read_bci2000_header` (`read_bci2000`), [9](#)