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Subject: Re: "standard" ASCII file format  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 16 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Thomas Egi ([egith@cs.tu-berlin.de](mailto:egith@cs.tu-berlin.de)) writes:

- > in the field of electric circuit simulation there is an "industry
- > standard" for simulation output called CSDF (common simulation data
- > format), which can be read by all of the visualization tools. Is there a
- > corresponding "de facto standard file format" for data import in the
- > world of pv-wave or IDL? And if so, where can I get information on that?

There is no "standard" IDL or PV-Wave data file format.  
If you have data, you can read it. Period. (Well, all right,  
occasionally--for the odd data format--you have to muck  
around a bit. But it *\*always\** gets read in.) That's what  
make IDL and PV-Wave so nice to work with.

If you are thinking of file output that can be read by other  
packages, then I think the de facto standard may just be  
a flat binary file stored in XDR format so that it is portable  
across machine architectures. Be sure to convert integers to  
longs if you want to use the data in your C or Fortran  
applications.

Cheers,

David

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