Subject: Re: scientific data format
Posted by David McClain on Fri, 15 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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My own experience with NetCDF (quite extensive for the past 4 years) is mixed:

1. You should definitely get the source code and fix it up. There are numerous bugs in the code. It was written in a fairly crude manner in pre-ANSII C.

2. It is a 32-bit implementation that places a limit of around 2 GBytes to the largest file.

3. It is being supplanted by HDF as the premier file format. However, if NetCDF appears complicated, then HDF is even more so.

I have developed a universal interface to scientific data repositories called SciDS. NetCDF is only one of its available formats. We also use it to attach to live hardware. The advantage is that the application code needs only to understand SciDS (very simple, even compared with NetCDF), and the data source can be attached at runtime to whatever SciDS data source you have, be it NetCDF, Excel CSV, live hardware, or whatever. The application can't tell the difference.

I plan to incorporate HDF into the SciDS system also, as much to control the complexity of the interface, as for any other reason.

CDF Appears to be an ancient NASA standard that was supplanted by NetCDF.

Hope this helps...

- DM
David McClain
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-----Original Message-----
From: Vincent Fournier-Sicre <vfs@acri.fr>
Newsgroups: comp.lang.idl-pvwave
Date: Thursday, January 14, 1999 05:16
Subject: scientific data format

> I am still undecided whether I should use NetCDF, CDF or
> HDF format to store data. Could somebody tell me what the
> pros/cons are for each one of these formats? Is there a

> document available somewhere that compares those formats?
> By advance thanks,
> Vincent
>
> _____
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