
Subject: Re: netCDF - ... and file size

Posted by [bowman](#) on Fri, 14 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <373C8FDA.3C47B2@io.harvard.edu>, Martin Schultz
<mgs@io.harvard.edu> wrote:

> Martin Schultz wrote:

>>

>

> ... the file size of my test netCDF file is practically identical to the

> size of my

> "primitive" binary file (all dat being stored as float). Wouldn't it be

> nice if netCDF would support compression? In my case that would mean a

> reduction by a factor of 4 (using gzip). Or would they loose

> cross-platform portability then?

There has been talk about doing this, but I think there are considerable obstacles. You can maintain cross-platform compatibility by using 'scale' and 'offset' attributes to linearly transform your variables and store them as, for example, 2-byte INTs instead of 4-byte FLOATS (at some cost in precision, of course).

Ken
