
Subject: Re: Writing large [x,x,x,x] files

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Mon, 19 Mar 2001 16:49:08 GMT

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Martin Schultz wrote:

>
> Craig Markwardt wrote:
>>
>> [...]
>> I'll chime in.
>>
>> Astronomy folks use FITS for data exchange, but other people can too.
>> I know that a lot of people complain that FITS is archaic but it's
>> pretty effective, [...]
>
> Oh let me advocate GRIB, a format commonly used by meteorological
> agencies (and established as standard by the WMO). It's archaic, it
> has a complicated user interface, but it is effective in packing data.
> And, most wonderful of all: if you would go for it, we would finally
> get a nice interface to read and write GRIB files from IDL ;-)
> [without call_external, i.e.]
>
> Cheers,
>
> Don't-take-me-serious-Martin
>
> PS: The fact that there are no GRIB utilities available in any library
> that I know of shows that not too many met people are using IDL. Or is
> everyone happy with the wgrib solution??

I convert GRIB->netCDF and read the latter in IDL (and other) code. :o)
(<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/packages/decoders>)

Disk space nowadays is cheap enough and readily available - packing data to save space is usually more trouble than it's worth (unless you're dealing with GB->TB/day from, say, satellite instruments). If your internet connection is too slow and your data absolutely, positively has to be there overnight - Fedex a DAT tape. :o)

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
paul.vandelst@noaa.gov Alexander Pope.
