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Subject: Re: read Nexrad level 3 data  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 25 May 2001 12:10:05 GMT  
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Joem (isojoern@linkline.com) writes:

- > i want to use NEXRAD level 3 data - composite reflectivity
- >
- > with idl/envi
- >
- > any hints?
- >
- > are there maybe translators to some standard formats?

I naively spent an enormous amount of time writing a NEXRAD level 3 reader/browser for an underfunded client who assured me that "tons of other people will want this software, so you can recoup your investment". You are the first person to ask about it. :-)

I can give you this hint: the documentation of the data format is abysmal! This may be true of many packed data formats from other satellites, and for all I know all the NASA and NOAA guys have to fight their way through this kind of morass every day, but this was an ...interesting... experience for me and a LOT of hard work.

In any case, I have some IDL software that will read the Radar Reflectivity (REF), Vertically Integrated Liquid (VIL), Digital Precipitation Array (DPA), and Composite Reflectivity (CRF) data from the NEXRAD files. But I'm afraid it is for sale, at least until the pain of it lessens more than it has so far. :-(

Best Regards,

David

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