Subject: Re: CDF vs HDF

Posted by david.b.han on Thu, 01 Apr 2004 13:10:10 GMT

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Michael Wallace <mwallace.removethis@swri.edu.invalid> wrote in message news:<106jn2q11rcsp51@corp.supernews.com>...

- > This isn't an IDL question exactly, but I figured that there are several
- > here who have to deal with these file types. Is there any real
- > difference between CDF and HDF? I have looked at some web pages that
- > describe the differences, but it doesn't mean much to me since I've
- > never delved into either one. The only reason I'm even looking at these
- > file types is that these seem to be the types preferred by the data
- > center we will be working with later on for long-term archival of our
- > data. If it means anything, my core data sets are nothing more than
- > really big arrays. Later on, other data like PNG images may be included.

>

- > Unless there's some big difference between the two, I'm going to go with
- > the one that's easier to work with in IDL. So, that brings me to the
- > question, is one easier to work with than the other? Or do I flip a
- > coin to determine which one to use?

>

> -Mike

Both CDF and netCDF are much easier to learn and use than HDF and CDF is a superset of netCDF, not the other way around. Both IDL and MatLab have a built-in support for CDF, and there's a suite of IDL routines with which you can manipulate CDF files (e.g. read, write, plot, etc.) at http://spdf.gsfc.nasa.gov/CDAWlib.html.

There's a data format translator at http://translators.gsfc.nasa.gov that allows users to translate files between CDF, netCDF, and FITS.