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Subject: Re: IDL code to read MSU and HIRS in Level1b

Posted by [Yamout](#) on Wed, 18 Aug 2004 16:56:06 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Yamout writes:

>

>

>> Is there any kind human being who can help an illiterate student to read  
>> a few MSU and HIRS data of NOAA 1991. I have got them from  
>> [www.saa.noaa.gov](http://www.saa.noaa.gov) and they have some differences with LAC and GAC.  
>> I have ENVI with full version of IDL installed in PC with Windows NT.

>

>

> That's a pretty powerful weapon you have there. Are you  
> \*sure\* nobody told you how to use it? :-(

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Dear David,

thank you very much for your reply. No, unfortunately I am sure that nobody has told me how to use it. The format description is not the most convenient one. I have got the following message from SAA after many mail exchanges:

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In response to your SAA Help Desk inquiry

E-Mail : Dear Hossein Yamout,

The only difference between the data from before and after January 1, 1995 is the record length. For data from prior to 1995, there were additional spare bytes at the end of each data record, effectively increasing the overall record length. In particular, for the line item you referenced, L5409101, which was for MSU data, you will want to look at section 4.3 of the POD Guide

<http://www2.ncdc.noaa.gov/docs/podug/html/c4/sec4-3.htm>

If you look at table 4.3.2.1-1. titled Format of MSU data, you will see that pre-1995 data had spare bytes in byte locations 401 to 440 while the data starting in 1995 had spare bytes in byte locations 401 to 437. Otherwise, the formats are identical. If you are interested in the other TOVS data types, they too had a record length change starting in 1995. The appropriate section of the POD Guide spells out the record length change for these data types as well. For SSU data, see <http://www2.ncdc.noaa.gov/docs/podug/html/c4/sec4-2.htm>

and for HIRS data see

<http://www2.ncdc.noaa.gov/docs/podug/html/c4/sec4-1.htm>

I hope this clarifies this matter for you.

Sincerely,  
CLASS Help Desk

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Do like to probe the data, so that I send you a sample? It is 127282 byte.

Regards

Hossein

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