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

Posted by [Yamout](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 15:31:18 GMT

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Dear David,

thank you for your reply. It doesn't matter at all. What I have found beyond the worst is the robot in SAA, which compiles the "Help Desk" mails. What a World would be then, if a help seeker only met robots.

I hope one day one time i could get the human one.

Goo luck for you also :-)

Hossein

~~~~~

David Fanning wrote:

> Dear Yamout,

>

> You write:

>

>

>> After many

>> weeks of errors, I discovered that those data are in a "little bit"

>> different format. But the problem now is that the differences are not

>> the same as the notes from the automatic help mail from SAA.

>

>

> I am sorry if I have seemed to belittle your experience.

> That was not my intention. Rather, I wanted to commiserate

> with it. The weeks and weeks of frustration you have

> experienced with satellite data is, in my experience,

> par for the course. I've never known it to be anything

> BUT frustrating. You can count on the directions being wrong.

>

> I assure you there is someone, somewhere who has read

> this data. It is your job to find him. He almost certainly

> does NOT work on the help desk. Probably he is a low-level

> flunky working for somebody on the committee who designed

> this godawful data format. He probably \*used\* to be somebody,

> but had an innovative idea once and got moved to the closet

> office next to the boiler room for his pains. His name will

> be the fourth or fifth on the list you get from the cousin

> of the guy on the help desk of people that "might be able

> to help, but probably not".

>

> He probably wrote the program that reads the data in some

> obscure language (you hope fervently wasn't COBOL), but

> even that will help you. What you need is a simple file, a

> program that reads the file, and a list of what the data looks  
> like. Then you start randomly poking around until things  
> start to make sense to you. It usually takes a while.  
>  
> In the words of Barry Lopez, in my favorite story "Directions",  
> from his \_Desert Notes\_ book, it will be like this:  
>  
> "You will need three or four days to follow it out. The  
> last part will be on foot. Prepare for this. Prepare for  
> the impact of nothing. Get on a regimen of tea and biscuits  
> and dried fruit. On the third or fourth day, when you are  
> ready to quit, you will know you are on your way. When  
> your throat is so thick with dust that you cannot breathe  
> you will be almost halfway there. When the soles of your  
> feet go numb with the burning and you cannot walk you will  
> know you have made no wrong turns. When you can no longer  
> laugh at all it is only a little further. Push on.  
>  
> "It will not be as easy as it sounds. ... [But] you will  
> always know this: others have made it. The man you gave  
> you the map has been here."  
>  
> Good luck! :-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>

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