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

Posted by [Yamout](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 14:44:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Dear Makr,

thank you for your response.

I have not ever touched TOVS data after 1991. It is not my problem to read those data. My problem is to read the TOVS data before 1995.

I have ordered and downloaded one of the TOVS sensors called MSU and tried to read this data as is described in POD User's Guide. 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. The following is the last so called help which could get from the robot there:

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

The robot in SAA help desk have not realized that there is not only one difference between the post and past level1b formats of TOVS data, but there are many others.

By the way, after so many weeks of mailing and now posting, I have

received no one (among them many meteorologists in NOAA) which reply me with the word "sorry" somewhere in their mail. Apparently there are not so many people (even high experts in NOAA) who have ever used these data. The next question which would one make is, why they operate and produce so many satellite data which no one can / have used.

If you would like I can make a long list of meteorologists and satellite experts which I have sent a mail and have got "sorry" answer or no answer at all.

In the field of remote sensing I have been met many times some statements in which one claims that has done this or that but nobody can follow how it has been done or if it has ever been done as it is claimed. If it is calibration or correction of a satellite image or just some remotely sensed maps or other earth surface products.

So I suppose would enough for the time being. If you are still interested in this matter, just let me know.

Yours

Hossein

~~~~~

Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Yamout wrote:

>

>> Dear Mark,

>>

>> thank you for your reply. As I said, I have ENVI with full version of

>> IDL unfortunately in PC (windows) platform. As you have written there

>> are some differences between the before and after 1995 formats. I have

>> asked SAA people and they can only send me such "helps" which I knew

>> already.

>

>

> So are you saying that you \*can\* read the post-1995 format? If so, how?

> Is there any possibility of your modifying the reader for the post-1995

> file so that it will cope with the difference in record length?

>

> Please be patient if the answers to these questions seem obvious to you,

> but I don't know much about ENVI. Please realise when you post questions

> to a news group that you need to give the readers enough information for

> them to help you.

>

> ---

> Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"

> m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz

> National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)