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Subject: Data format for spherical data

Posted by [news.verizon.net](https://news.verizon.net) on Wed, 25 May 2005 14:39:48 GMT

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Sorry if this posting appears twice. Also, this is not really an IDL question, though I will be using IDL to convert to the new data format.

I've only worked only within the provincial field of astronomy, and so I've never had to deal with data formats other than FITS. But our data center is now being asked to make our all-sky data available in a more popular (but still scientific) data format, where suggestions so far for the new format have included NetCDF and GeoTIFF. The data will consist of various quantities (e.g. flux, error, # of observations) attached to ~60,000 longitude, latitude points covering the entire sphere.

I suppose the most important criterion for the format is popularity (we only want to do this once) although an ability to naturally handle spherical data is a plus, as is the ease of the conversion within IDL.

Any suggestions?

Thanks, -Wayne Landsman

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