
Subject: Re: GRIB Code (GRIdded Binary)

Posted by [Hermann Mannstein](#) on Thu, 21 Dec 1995 08:00:00 GMT

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

Liam Gumley (gumley@modsgi.ssec.wisc.edu) asked me to post the following:

I just went through the exercise of decoding some NMC data encoded in GRIB. I don't know of any way to import GRIB data directly into IDL. However, FORTRAN code is available which will decode GRIB files into unformatted form that can be read by IDL.

Look in <ftp://nic.fb4.noaa.gov/pub/info>

You will find machine specific versions of a GRIB unpacker called unpkgrb1.f, along with supporting subroutines. Download the version of unpkgrb1.f that is suitable for your system (I used the SGI version) and follow the README directions for compilation. You should then be able to unpack any GRIB format file. Look at the comments in unpkgrb1.f to see how to inventory and dump the contents of a GRIB file. The output file will be form='unformatted', which can be read in IDL by using the F77_UNFORMATTED keyword to the OPENR statement.

For an example of a GRIB file that unpkgrb1.f will handle, try downloading

<ftp://nic.fb4.noaa.gov/pub/fnl/gdas1.T00Z.PGrbF00>

which is the 1x1 degree resolution Global Data Assimilation System output.

For a detailed description of the GRIB format, consult

<ftp://nic.fb4.noaa.gov/pub/nws/nmc/docs/gribguide>

which has text and postscript versions of the GRIB user's guide. It contains useful information on the data types, reporting levels, and units of parameters contained in GRIB files.

I hope this helps.

Cheers,

Liam.

PS - could you post this to the IDL newsgroup - my news server is not accepting posts at this time.
