
Subject: Re: scientific data compression
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2004 00:11:44 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> I am trying to find out if there is a scientific data format which
> supports data compression and can be handled by IDL. We use netCDF so
> far, but that doesn't support compression yet. HDF seems to support
> compression as of version 4.2, but IDL supports only 4.1, is that
> correct? Any alternatives?
>
> Thanks,
> Benjamin

Some data could be quite good packed (not compressed) by using the
scale_factor and add_offset attribute. This data could then be saved as
integer or byte. This will save a lot of space.

We are using netCDF too. If we don't have much _FillValues or missing_values
then the filesize would not get much smaller if we try this with bzip2 or
gzip for our files. Did you have tried such a compression method before ?

HDF SD and netCDF will be in Version 4 of netCDF the same.

Reimar

--

Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

=====
a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

Subject: Re: scientific data compression
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Sun, 04 Apr 2004 02:53:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> Benjamin Hornberger wrote:
>
>

>> Hi all,

>>

>> I am trying to find out if there is a scientific data format which
>> supports data compression and can be handled by IDL. We use netCDF so
>> far, but that doesn't support compression yet. HDF seems to support
>> compression as of version 4.2, but IDL supports only 4.1, is that
>> correct? Any alternatives?

It would be surprising if there were any major file-format incompatibility between HDF versions 4.1 & 4.2, though it's conceivable that there are minor incompatibilities (for example, new compression methods that were added to 4.2 and are not supported in 4.1).

It should take only a minute or two of rummaging around the HDF site to check this out for yourself

--

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)
