
Subject: Re: Routines for reading grib2 and BUFR
Posted by [jkeller](#) on Tue, 22 Jun 2010 11:43:54 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Exactly one of my problems, too.

As I wrote in another post, I only know of a way via raw binary files.

I think there is no solution yet.

Sincerely,
Jan

Subject: Re: Routines for reading grib2 and BUFR
Posted by [bokubo](#) on Tue, 22 Jun 2010 15:09:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jun 22, 1:53 am, Klemens <jokuhl...@web.de> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> working with Eumetsat satellite data, I am looking for routines to
> read grib2 and BUFR (Binary Universal Form for the Representation of
> meteorological data) data directly in IDL. I have played around with
> the IDL grib routine, but it does not work properly for grib2 data. I
> know the NCL library, but since I am working in the Windows
> environment, it is not very comfortable. To read BUFR, I have not
> found anything, that seems to be applicable for me. May be there is
> somebody out there who faced the same problems and spent some effort
> to code something in IDL...
>
> Thank for your help in advance !
>
> Cheers,
>
> Klemens

GRIB (and presumably GRIB2) and BUFR are two file formats that we plan to investigate for the next development cycle (IDL 8.1). It will be awhile yet but as we get to a Tech Preview for that release, I will post to the newsgroup and perhaps you can help us test it.

Best regards,

Bill Okubo, IDL Product Manager

Subject: Re: Routines for reading grib2 and BUFR
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Tue, 22 Jun 2010 17:51:59 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article

<7b5ab75b-f2de-43cc-bf67-de7766d90c15@j8g2000yqd.googlegroups.com>,

Klemens <jokulhlaup@web.de> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> working with Eumetsat satellite data, I am looking for routines to
> read grib2 and BUFR (Binary Universal Form for the Representation of
> meteorological data) data directly in IDL. I have played around with
> the IDL grib routine, but it does not work properly for grib2 data. I
> know the NCL library, but since I am working in the Windows
> environment, it is not very comfortable. To read BUFR, I have not
> found anything, that seems to be applicable for me. May be there is
> somebody out there who faced the same problems and spent some effort
> to code something in IDL...
>
> Thank for your help in advance !
>
> Cheers,
>
> Klemens

At this time your best bet is probably to use wgrib2

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/wesley/wgrib2/>

to convert the files to binary, then read the binary
files using standard IDL I/O.

I have only done this with wgrib, not wgrib2, but it should
be very similar.

I have generally found that compiling wgrib is easy, even for
a non-C programmer like me. Just cc it to make an executable.

The approach that I use is:

1. Use wgrib to generate an inventory of the records in the file.
2. Parse the inventory file to identify records that you want to read
(create a subset of the inventory records). STRSPLIT is your friend.
3. Use wgrib to convert the grib file to a binary file, copying
only the records you selected in step 2.
4. Read the binary file into IDL using unformatted I/O.

All of this can be done within an IDL program (on a unix-based

system, I guess) by using SPAWN to run wgrib.

It is ugly, but it works. Good luck.

Ken

Subject: Re: Routines for reading grib2 and BUFR
Posted by [jkeller](#) on Wed, 23 Jun 2010 09:43:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

At this time your best bet is probably to use wgrib2

Thats what I'm currently doing to get my data into IDL.

> GRIB (and presumably GRIB2) and BUFR are two file formats that we plan
> to investigate for the next development cycle (IDL 8.1). It will be
> awhile yet but as we get to a Tech Preview for that release, I will
> post to the newsgroup and perhaps you can help us test it.

As I am waiting for that feature to be build-in for quite a while now,
I'd be glad if I could be of some help.

Sincerely
Jan
