
Subject: "standard" ASCII file format

Posted by [Thomas Egi](#) on Tue, 16 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi everyone,

in the field of electric circuit simulation there is an "industry standard" for simulation output called CSDF (common simulation data format), which can be read by all of the visualization tools. Is there a corresponding "de facto standard file format" for data import in the world of pv-wave or IDL? And if so, where can I get information on that?

Thank you for any hints

Thomas

Subject: Re: "standard" ASCII file format

Posted by [LC's No-Spam Newsread](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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On Tue, 16 Dec 1997, Thomas Egi wrote:

> in the field of electric circuit simulation there is an "industry
> standard" for simulation output called CSDF (common simulation data

I believe every field has its own standards.

For instance in astronomy the standard for transport of image data is FITS (basic FITS). The de facto standard for transport of other data is a set of extension to FITS (which unfortunately are too flexible and relaxed to be an unique standard ... let's say they ensure interoperability more than portability).

On the other hand what is a great thing for *transport* may not be a great thing as work format. Most astronomical packages therefore convert into a native format (OS dependent, that's often more efficient). I have my own too.

> corresponding "de facto standard file format" for data import in the
> world of pv-wave or IDL? And if so, where can I get information on that?

The advantage of IDL is that it is not a package but a language, and can be adapted very flexibly to import any kind of data (whose format is documented). E.g. I know there is an "astrolib" to read FITS, and I have my own little set of routines to read my own format.

I've also been told by a colleague that one can save an IDL session under a given OS, move the saved binary file to a different OS, restore

it and continue working as one just resumes the session. But probably this is barely relevant to the present issue.

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