A shot in the dark:

Stewarding early space data at the University of Iowa

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Image credits: University of Iowa Special Collections and University Archives
What is Common Data Format (CDF)?

- Self-describing data format for the storage of scalar and multidimensional data in a platform- and discipline-independent way
- Scientific data management package (CDF Library) allows application developers to manage these data arrays
- Transparent access to data and metadata through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
- Built-in support for data compression (gzip, RLE, Huffman) and automatic data decompression
- Large file support (> 2GBytes)
- CDF library includes a suite of tools that allow users to manipulate CDF files
- Provide read/write interfaces for C, Fortran, Java, Perl, C#/Visual Basic, IDL, MATLAB (and user-supplied software, e.g., Python, Sybase, mySQL)
- More Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

[Download the latest released version (V3.5.0.2)]

Please email cdf-support@ists.nasa.gov with any CDF-related questions (both technical and policy-related).

Example external CDF visualization tool: Autoplot interactive browser

Announcements

- 2014/03/01 NEW: CDF version V3.5.0.2 is released. For the new TT2000 data type, read our requirements analysis and development approach for more details. [Note for Mac OS X PPC users: we will stop supporting this port in the future release.]
- IDL: Patch based on the latest CDF V3.5.0 version IDL Patch
- MATLAB: Patch based on the latest CDF V3.5.0 version MATLAB Patch
- C#Visual Basic C#VB-CDF on Windows based on the latest CDF V3.5.0

- A suite of user-provided software can interact with CDF. Please check them out here. NEW
- CDFSupport email address was changed to cdf-support@ists.nasa.gov
- CDF's Java Network Launching Protocol latest development