PDS LABELS

The International Halley Watch agreed early in the project that all data would be submitted from the individual scientists to the Lead Center using the FITS format (Wells et al., 1981). When the decision was made to distribute this information on CD-ROM, it was determined that the data had to have even broader accessibility. For this reason the original FITS files, with contiguous headers and data, were split into separate files distinguishable by their filename extensions (.HDR for headers). The file sizes were preserved as multiples of 2880 bytes, allowing the original FITS byte stream to be recovered by concatenating the appropriate header and datafile.

In addition, detached (PDS) labels were constructed to allow parallel definition of the data files for the Planetary Data System (PDS). The reference for this project are as follows: SPIDS, Standards for the Preparation and Interchange of Data Sets, Martin, T. Z., et al, V1.1, JPL D-4683, 10/3/88; Planetary Data System, Data Preparation Workbook, Volume 2, Standards, V2.0, JPL D-7669, 05/03/91; and Planetary Data System, Standards Reference, V3.0, JPL D-7669, part 2, 11/20/92.

There are three data objects in this archive: ARRAY (COLLECTION), IMAGE, TABLE (TIME_SERIES as a subset). Our aim was to construct a PDS label for each data file on the CD-ROM. These PDS labels contain pointers to the actual data files (or to headers describing data submitted to the archive). There has been no effort to duplicate the documentation contained in the full FITS headers because the PDS and FITS headers for a given data file differ only in the filename extension. Instead we have attempted to use the power of the PDS label syntax to fully describe the data structures and thus gain access to the powerful software already supported by that group.

Most keywords were already in the Planetary Science Data Dictionary but a few dealing with the ARRAY and TIME_SERIES were introduced to specifically describe the IHW data. A listing of these keywords with definitions follow.

BYTES

The number of bytes constituting a single data item

COLUMNS

The number of items of information in each row of a data table

CONTAINER

The container object allows for description of 2-d array data.

DATA_SET_ID

A unique alphanumeric identifier for a data set. It is used as a primary key in the PDS catalog.

DATA_SET_PARAMETER_NAME

The name of the physical parameter represented in an image. Note this definition differs from the PDS data dictionary definition.

DATA_TYPE

The data type of a data item. Valid values are INTEGER, REAL, DATE,

TIME, and CHARACTER.

DERIVED_MAXIMUM

The maximum value occurring in the file for a given field

DERIVED_MINIMUM

The minimum value occurring in the file for a given field

DESCRIPTION

Text describing an object. Sometimes this is expressed as a pointer to another file containing the descriptive text; e.g., FITS header.

END_OBJECT

This keyword is used by ODL to indicate the end of a data object definition.

FILE_RECORDS

The number of physical records in a data file

FORMAT

The Fortran 77 representation of the format statement needed to read a data item in an ASCII file

IMAGE

The data in an image file, expressed as a pointer to the record where the data begins. For example, ^IMAGE = ("filename", 3) indicates that image data begins in record 3 of file "filename".

INTERCHANGE_FORMAT

The type of data stored in a file; either "ASCII" or "BINARY"

ITEMS

Elements held in any arbitrary variable

ITEM_BYTES

Number of bytes per item

LINES

The number of lines in an image

LINE_SAMPLES

The number of samples contained in each image line

MINIMUM_SAMPLING_PARAMETER

For the spectrum object, the first value along the fastest varying axis

NAME

The name of a column in a table

NOTE

Descriptive text about a data file, referring to IHW disciplines

OBJECT

This keyword specifies the type of a data object. It is used by ODL to indicate the start of a data object definition.

OBSERVATION_TIME

As used by the International Halley Watch, the time at the midpoint of an observation.

OBSERVATION ID

A unique number which identifies each archived measurement gathered by the International Halley Watch.

OFFSET

A shift in zero point required to properly calculate the reduced value represented in a FITS data record

PRODUCER_FULL_NAME

The full name of those mainly responsible for production of a data set

RECORDS

The number of records in the object being described; for example, the number of records in a header object

RECORD_BYTES

The number of bytes in each record of a data file

RECORD_TYPE

The record structure type of a data file. Valid values are FIXED_LENGTH, VARIABLE_LENGTH, and STREAM. Images and data tables usually have fixed-length records, whereas text files have stream format records.

REPETITIONS

The number times a repeating data item recurs

ROWS

The number of logical records in a data table

ROW_BYTES

The number of bytes in each row (i.e., logical record) of a data table

SAMPLE BITS

The number of bits of data comprising one sample or pixel in an image, or element in other objects

SAMPLE_TYPE

The data type of an image sample or pixel. The table below lists the values used on this CD-ROM:

UNSIGNED_INTEGER An unsigned integer value. Samples with a

length of 16 bits are in most-significant-byte

first order.

MSB_INTEGER A signed integer with most-significant-byte

leading as required by FITS format

COMPLEX_INTEGER The value represented in a process step

(UVFITS) for certain types of radio data

SAMPLING_PARAMETER_INTERVAL

Unit of change of the independent variable (assumed to be constant)

SAMPLING_PARAMETER_ITEMS

Number of elements along independent axis

SAMPLING_PARAMETER_NAME

Name associated with the independent variable

SAMPLING_PARAMETER_UNIT

Unit associated with the independent variable

SCALING FACTOR

The factor that must be applied to the FITS data record to scale the values as described by UNIT

START_BYTE

The byte position of the beginning of a data item within a row of data. The first item will have a START_BYTE of 1.

START_TIME

The date and time of the beginning of an event, such as data collection, in PDS standard (UTC) format

TARGET NAME

The name of a planetary body, such as a planet or satellite

TEXT

The object which contains an ASCII string with no formatting characters

TIME_SERIES

The object in a form of a table that stores a sequence of measurements taken at regular intervals of time

UNIT

The units of measure of a data item

REFERENCES

Martin, T.Z., Martin, M.D., Davis, R.L., Mehlman, R., Braun, M., Johnson M.: October 3, 1988, Standards for the Preparation and Interchange of Data Sets, Version 1.1, JPL D-4683.

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Wells, D.C., Greisen, E.W., and Harten, R.H.: 1981, Astron. Astrophys. Suppl. Ser. 44, 363.

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