CDF (Common Data Format): Tutorial and demonstration

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At the present poster, we will give you a brief lecture of what the CDF (Common Data Format) is. The CDF is one of the self-description type formats mainly used for observation data files. Compared with other public data formats, such as netCDF, FITS or HDF, the CDF provides more flexible data format with more complicated structures.

The CDF is proposed by the NSSDC at GSFC/NASA for the ISTP project. The latest version is 3.1. The data formats of the CDF 3.1 are either in r variable or z variable. The z variable is preferable since it describes more complicated data types.

Since the CDF is becoming de-fact standard format in the solar-terrestrial physics, to study this data format seems important, especially those who make programs to write/read data files. In the present talk, we give you a brief tutorial about the CDF. We also demonstrate a system to make full use of the CDF. In this system, the agent server read the headers of the CDF, then meta-information of the observation data files are distributed using the RSS (Rich Site Summary).