

Raw OLAP data formats

OLAP produces several data formats, which are intended to be replaced by their final format, such as HDF5. The formats below are not officially supported and subject to change without notice.

Data can be recorded as either complex voltages (yielding X and Y polarisations) or one or more stokes. In either case, a sequence of blocks will be stored, each of which consists of a header and data. The header is defined as:

```
struct header {
    uint32 sequence_number; /* big endian */
    char padding[508];
};
```

in which sequence_number starts at 0, and is increased by 1 for every block. Missing sequence numbers implies missing data. The padding can have any value and is to be ignored.

Complex Voltages

Each (pencil) beam produces two files: one containing the X polarisation, and one containing the Y polarisation. The names of these files adhere to the following scheme:

Lxxxxx_Byyy_S0_bf.raw	X polarisations of beam yyy of observation xxxxx
Lxxxxx_Byyy_S1_bf.raw	Y polarisations of beam yyy of observation xxxxx

Each file is a sequence of blocks of the following structure:

```
struct block {
    struct header header;

    /* big endian */
    fcomplex voltages[SAMPLES|2][SUBBANDS][CHANNELS];

    /*
     // 2010-06-29 release and earlier stored data per subband instead of per
     beam:
     fcomplex voltages[BEAMS][CHANNELS][SAMPLES|2][POLARIZATIONS];
     */
};
```

Older releases: 2010-09-20:

1. filenames ended in -bf.raw instead of _bf.raw

Coherent Stokes

Each (pencil) beam produces one or four files: one containing the Stokes I (power) values, and

optionally three files for Stokes Q, U, and V, respectively. The names of these files adhere to the following scheme:

Lxxxxx_Byyy_S0_bf.raw	Stokes I of beam yyy of observation xxxxx
Lxxxxx_Byyy_S1_bf.raw	Stokes Q of beam yyy of observation xxxxx
Lxxxxx_Byyy_S2_bf.raw	Stokes U of beam yyy of observation xxxxx
Lxxxxx_Byyy_S3_bf.raw	Stokes V of beam yyy of observation xxxxx

Each file is a sequence of blocks of the following structure:

```
struct block {
    struct header header;

    /* big endian */
    float stokes[SAMPLES|2][SUBBANDS][CHANNELS];

    /*
     // 2010-06-29 release and earlier stored data per subband instead of per
    beam:
    fcomplex voltages[BEAMS][CHANNELS][SAMPLES|2][STOKES];
    */
};
```

Older releases: 2010-09-20:

1. Values of Stokes U and V are multiplied by 1/2
2. filenames ended in -bf.raw instead of _bf.raw

Incoherent Stokes

Incoherent stokes are stored per subband, with one or four stokes per file, using the following naming convention:

Lxxxxx_SByyy_bf.incoherentstokes	Stokes of subband yyy of observation xxxxx
----------------------------------	--

Each file is a sequence of blocks of the following structure:

```
struct block {
    struct header header;

    /* big endian */
    float stokes[STOKES][CHANNELS][SAMPLES|2];

    /*
     // 2010-09-20 release:
    float stokes[STOKES][SAMPLES|2][CHANNELS];

    // 2010-06-29 release and earlier:
```

```
float stokes[CHANNELS][SAMPLES|2][STOKES];
*/
};
```

The order in which the Stokes values are stored is: I, Q, U, V.

Older releases: 2010-09-20:

1. Values of Stokes U and V are multiplied by 1/2
2. filenames ended in -bf.raw instead of _bf.raw
3. data order changed

Types and constants

Types

A 'float' is a 32-bit IEEE floating point number. An 'fcomplex' is a complex number defined as

```
struct fcomplex {
    float real;
    float imag;
};
```

Constants

Constants can be computed using the parset file. Below is a translation between the C constants used above and their respective parset keys:

SAMPLES	The number of time samples in a block	OLAP.CNProc.integrationSteps / OLAP.Stokes.integrationSteps
SUBBANDS	The number of subbands (beamlets) specified	len(Observation.subbandList)
CHANNELS	The number of channels per subband	Observation.channelsPerSubband
STOKES	The number of stokes calculated (1 or 4)	len(OLAP.Stokes.which)

Useful routines

The following routines might be useful when reading raw OLAP data.

Byte swapping

Needed if you read data on a machine which used a different endianness. Typically, x86 machines (intel, amd) are little-endian, while the rest (sparc, powerpc, including the BlueGene/P) is big-endian.

```
#include <stdint.h> // for uint32_t. On Windows, use UINT32.

uint32_t swap_uint32( uint32_t x )
{
    union {
        char c[4];
        uint32_t i;
    } src,dst;

    src.i = x;
    dst.c[0] = src.c[3];
    dst.c[1] = src.c[2];
    dst.c[2] = src.c[1];
    dst.c[3] = src.c[0];

    return dst.i;
}

/* Do NOT take a float as an argument. An incorrectly read float
   (because it has the wrong endianness) is subject to modification
   by the platform/compiler (normalisation etc). */
float swap_float( char *x )
{
    union {
        char c[4];
        float f;
    } dst;

    dst.c[0] = x[3];
    dst.c[1] = x[2];
    dst.c[2] = x[1];
    dst.c[3] = x[0];

    return dst.f;
}
```

Variable-sized arrays

Since the dimensions of the arrays produced by OLAP depend on the parset, it's handy to have access to arrays with variable size. The easiest way is to use C++ and the boost library (which is often installed by default):

```
#include "boost/multi_array.hpp"

int main() {
    /* create an array of floats with 2 dimensions, and initialise it to have
       dimensions [2][3] */
    boost::multi_array<float,2> myarray(boost::extents[2][3]);
```

```

/* getting and setting is the same as with regular C arrays */
myarray[1][2] = 1.0;

/* note: &myarray[0][0] (or myarray.origin()) is the address of the first
   element, which can be
   used if the full array needs to be read from disk. */

return 0;
}

```

See also http://www.boost.org/doc/libs/1_43_0/libs/multi_array/doc/user.html

If you need to use C, things become a bit more cumbersome. You need to roll out your own multi-dimensional array, although you'll have to customise your code for each number of dimensions in order to keep your code readable. For example:

```

/* create an array of floats with 2 dimensions, max1 and max2 in size
   respectively */
struct myarray {
    float *data;
    unsigned max1,max2;
};

/* return myarray[one][two] */
float get( struct myarray *array, unsigned one, unsigned two )
{
    return *(myarray.data + one * myarray.max2 + two);
}

/* set myarray[one][two] to value */
void set( struct myarray *array, unsigned one, unsigned two, float value )
{
    *(myarray.data + one * myarray.max2 + two) = value;
}

int main() {
    /* create an array of floats */
    struct array myarray;

    /* allocate the array with dimensions [2][3] */
    myarray.max1 = 2;
    myarray.max2 = 3;
    myarray.data = malloc( myarray.max1 * myarray.max2 * sizeof *myarray );

    /* emulate myarray[1][2] = 1.0 */
    set(&myarray,1,2,1.0);

    /* note: myarray.data is the address of the first element, which can be
       used if the full
       array needs to be read from disk. */
}

```

```
/* free the array */
free( myarray.data );

return 0;
}
```

Keep in mind that if you need to switch endianness as well, you first need to read into a char array, and convert it to a float array after reading from disk. This is included in the example below.

Example reading of OLAP data using (minimal) C++ and Boost

The following code reads raw complex voltages from disk.

```
#include "boost/multi_array.hpp"
#include <cstdio>
#include <stdint.h> // for uint32_t. On Windows, use UINT32.

struct header {
    uint32_t sequence_number;
    char padding[508];
};

int is_bigendian() {
    union {
        char c[4];
        uint32_t i;
    } u;

    u.i = 0x12345678;
    return u.c[0] == 0x12;
}

uint32_t swap_uint32( uint32_t x )
{
    union {
        char c[4];
        uint32_t i;
    } src, dst;

    src.i = x;
    dst.c[0] = src.c[3];
    dst.c[1] = src.c[2];
    dst.c[2] = src.c[1];
    dst.c[3] = src.c[0];

    return dst.i;
}
```

```

float swap_float( char *x )
{
    union {
        char c[4];
        float f;
    } dst;

    dst.c[0] = x[3];
    dst.c[1] = x[2];
    dst.c[2] = x[1];
    dst.c[3] = x[0];

    return dst.f;
}

int main()
{
    // example file (60MB!) is available at
    //
    http://www.astron.nl/~mol/L09330_B000_S0-example-stokes-I-248-subbands-16-channels-763-samples.raw

    unsigned SUBBANDS = 248;           // |Observation.subbandList|
    unsigned CHANNELS = 16;           // Observation.channelsPerSubband
    unsigned SAMPLES = 12208 / 16;    // OLAP.CNProc.integrationSteps /
    OLAP.Stokes.integrationSteps
    unsigned FLOATSPERSAMPLE = 1;     // 1 for Stokes, 2 for Complex Voltages
    (real and imaginary parts)

    struct header header;
    int swap_endian = !is_bigendian();

    // the raw_array is read from disk and converted to the float_array
    // the extra dimension [4] covers the size of a float in chars in the
    raw_array
    boost::multi_array<char,5>
    raw_array(boost::extents[SAMPLES|2][SUBBANDS][CHANNELS][FLOATSPERSAMPLE][4])
    ;
    boost::multi_array<float,4>
    float_array(boost::extents[SAMPLES|2][SUBBANDS][CHANNELS][FLOATSPERSAMPLE]);

    FILE *f = fopen( "L09330_B000_S0-example-stokes-I-248-subbands-16-
channels-763-samples.raw", "rb" );
    if (!f) {
        puts( "Could not open input file." );
        return 1;
    }

    while( !feof(f) ) {
        // read header

```

```

if( fread( f, &header, sizeof header, 1 ) < 1 )
    break;

if( swap_endian )
    header.sequence_number = swap_uint32( header.sequence_number );

printf( "Reading block %u...\n", header.sequence_number );

// read data
if( swap_endian ) {
    if( fread( f, raw_array.origin(), raw_array.num_elements(), 1 ) < 1 )
        break;

    // swap all data regardless of array dimensions
    char *src = raw_array.origin();
    float *dst = float_array.origin();

    for( unsigned i = 0; i < float_array.num_elements(); i++ ) {
        *dst = swap_float( src );
        dst++; src += 4;
    }
} else
    if( fread( f, float_array.origin(), float_array.num_elements(), 1 ) <
1 )
        break;

// process block here
}

fclose( f );
return 0;
}

```

Changelog for each release

2010-10-25	Incoherent Stokes data order changed
	File naming scheme changed (-bf → _bf)
	Stokes U and V are no longer multiplied by 1/2
2010-09-20	First release documented

From:
<https://www.astron.nl/lofarwiki/> - **LOFAR Wiki**

Permanent link:
https://www.astron.nl/lofarwiki/doku.php?id=public:documents:raw_olap_data_formats&rev=1288103204

Last update: **2010-10-26 14:26**

