

SDHDF: Formal Definition

Formal definition for Single Dish Hierarchical Data Format – a file format for spectral line and continuum data from single dish radio telescopes

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V2.0 (June 22nd 2021)

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
The SDHDF Definition (v2.0)	2
Appendix B: SDHDF Version History	10
SDHDF Versions	10
SDHDF v2.0 (Latest: June 8 th 2021)	
SDHDF v1.9.2	10
SDHDF v1.9.1	10
SDHDF v1.9	10
SDHDF v1.8	
SDHDF v1.7	
SDHDF v1.6	11
SDHDF v1.5	
SDHDF v1.4	11
SDHDF v1.3	12
SDHDF v1.2	
SDHDF v1.1	12
SDHDF v1.0	

The SDHDF Definition (v2.0)

SDHDF Definition Overview		
SDHDF Definition Version: 2.0		
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SDHDF File Overview		
HDF Object Name	HDF_Object_Type	Value
file.hdf	File	SDHDF format file
SDHDF Structure Overview		
HDF_Object_Name	HDF_Object_Type	Value
/beam_N	Group	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF group containing data products specific to the antenna beam
NAME	Attribute	beam_N
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_beam
/beam_N/band_N	Group	
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF group containing data products specific to the frequency band
NAME	Attribute	band_SB0
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_band
/beam_N/band_N/astronomy_data	Group	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF group containing observation data
NAME	Attribute	astronomy_data
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_data
/beam_N/band_N/astronomy_data/data	Dataset	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF astronomy data
DIMENSION_LABELS	Attribute	time, beam, polarization, frequency, bin
DIMENSION_LIST	Attribute	List of dimension objects
NAME	Attribute	data
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_waterfall
UNIT	Attribute	counts
/beam_N/band_N/astronomy_data/frequency	Dataset	-
CLASS	Attribute	DIMENSION_SCALE
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF frequency data (default reference frame: topocentric)
FRAME	Attribute	topocentric

ARTICULAR ARTICU	NAME	Attribute	frequency
Attribute Mile	REFERENCE_LIST	Attribute	HDF5 object reference
Attribute SDNDF group containing Cheam_M/band_M/calibrator_data Attribute SDNDF group containing Cheam_M/band_M/calibrator_data Calibrator_data Calibrator_dat	SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_frequency
DESCRIPTION Attribute SDRDF_group containing observation data (calibrator) NAME SDRDF_CLASS Attribute Attribute Attribute SDRDF_CLASS Attribute Attribute SDRDF_CLASS Attribute DESCRIPTION Attribute Attribute Attribute SDRDF_Calibration dataset	UNIT	Attribute	MHz
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/beam_N/band_N/metadata/sal_obs_params	NAME	Attribute	metadata
ABST_UNIT Attribute (MIN.MS:SS.s) ASS_OFFSET_UNIT Attribute arc-sec AS AST_UNIT ATTRIBUTE	SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_meta
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GB_UNIT Attribute GL Attribute Galactic longitude GL_UNIT Attribute HOUR_ANGLE HOUR_ANGLE HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT Attribute Attribute Attribute degrees MJD Attribute Timestamp at integration midpoint (MJD) MJD_UNIT Attribute days NAME Attribute Attribute Cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	EL_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
GL Attribute Galactic longitude GL_UNIT Attribute degrees HOUR_ANGLE HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT Attribute degrees MJD Attribute Timestamp at integration midpoint (MJD) MJD_UNIT Attribute days NAME Attribute Cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	GB	Attribute	Galactic latitude
GL_UNIT Attribute degrees HOUR_ANGLE Hour angle HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT Attribute degrees MJD Attribute Timestamp at integration midpoint (MJD) MJD_UNIT Attribute days NAME Attribute cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	GB_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
HOUR_ANGLE HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT Attribute MJD MJD_UNIT Attribute Attribute Cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Hour angle Hour angle Attribute degrees Attribute Timestamp at integration midpoint (MJD) Attribute cal_obs_params Paralactic angle	GL	Attribute	Galactic longitude
HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT Attribute Attribute Timestamp at integration midpoint (MJD) MJD_UNIT Attribute Attribute days NAME Attribute Cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	GL_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
MJD Attribute Timestamp at integration midpoint (MJD) MJD_UNIT Attribute days NAME Attribute cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	HOUR_ANGLE	Attribute	Hour angle
MJD_UNIT Attribute days NAME Attribute cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
NAME Attribute cal_obs_params PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	MJD	Attribute	
PARA_ANGLE Attribute Parallactic angle	MJD_UNIT	Attribute	days
_	NAME	Attribute	cal_obs_params
PARA_ANGLE_UNIT Attribute degrees	PARA_ANGLE	Attribute	Parallactic angle
	PARA_ANGLE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees

RA_DEG	Attribute	J2000 right ascension
RA_DEG_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
RA_OFFSET	Attribute	J2000 RA offset
RA_OFFSET_UNIT	Attribute	S
RA_STR	Attribute	J2000 right ascension
RA_STR_UNIT	Attribute	HH:MM:SS.s
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
TIME_DB	Attribute	Database Universal Coordinated Time (HH:MM:SS.s)
TIME_DB_UNIT	Attribute	hours
UTC	Attribute	Timestamp at integration midpoint (UTC)
UTC_UNIT	Attribute	hours
UT_DATE	Attribute	Date at integration midpoint (UTC YYYY-MM-DD-hh:mm:ss)
WIND_DIR	Attribute	Wind direction
WIND_DIR_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
WIND_SPD	Attribute	Wind speed
WIND_SPD_UNIT	Attribute	km/hr
ZE	Attribute	Antenna zenith angle
ZE_DRIVE_RATE	Attribute	Zenith drive rate
ZE_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees/min
ZE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
/beam_N/band_N/metadata/obs_params	Dataset	-
/beam_N/band_N/metadata/obs_params AEST	Dataset Attribute	- Australian Eastern Standard Time (HH:MM:SS.s)
AEST	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s)
AEST_UNIT	Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s)
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET	Attribute Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT	Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset arc-sec
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ	Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE	Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT	Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT	Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT DEC_OFFSET	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees J2000 DEC offset
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT DEC_OFFSET DEC_OFFSET_UNIT	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees J2000 DEC offset arc-sec
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT DEC_OFFSET DEC_OFFSET_UNIT DEC_STR	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees J2000 DEC offset arc-sec J2000 declination
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT DEC_OFFSET DEC_OFFSET_UNIT DEC_STR DEC_STR_UNIT	Attribute	(HH:MM:SS.s) hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees J2000 DEC offset arc-sec J2000 declination DD:MM:SS.s Metadata specific to the
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT DEC_OFFSET DEC_OFFSET_UNIT DEC_STR DEC_STR_UNIT DESCRIPTION	Attribute	hours J2000 Ax (Cross-El) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees J2000 DEC offset arc-sec J2000 declination DD:MM:SS.s Metadata specific to the integrations of the observation
AEST_UNIT AZ_OFFSET AZ_OFFSET_UNIT AZ AZ_DRIVE_RATE AZ_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT AZ_UNIT DEC_DEG DEC_DEG_UNIT DEC_OFFSET DEC_OFFSET_UNIT DEC_STR DEC_STR_UNIT DESCRIPTION EL	Attribute	hours J2000 Ax (Cross-E1) offset arc-sec Antenna azimuth angle Azimuth drive rate degrees/min degrees J2000 declination degrees J2000 DEC offset arc-sec J2000 declination DD:MM:SS.s Metadata specific to the integrations of the observation Antenna elevation angle

EL_OFFSET_UNIT	Attribute	arc-sec
EL_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
GB	Attribute	Galactic latitude
GB_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
GL	Attribute	Galactic longitude
GL_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
HOUR ANGLE	Attribute	Hour angle
HOUR_ANGLE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
MJD	Attribute	Timestamp at integration midpoint
		(MJD)
MJD_UNIT	Attribute	days
NAME	Attribute	obs_params
PARA_ANGLE	Attribute	Parallactic angle
PARA_ANGLE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
RA_DEG	Attribute	J2000 right ascension
RA_DEG_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
RA_OFFSET	Attribute	J2000 RA offset
RA_OFFSET_UNIT	Attribute	S
RA_STR	Attribute	J2000 right ascension
RA_STR_UNIT	Attribute	HH:MM:SS.s
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
TIME_DB	Attribute	Database Universal Coordinated Time (HH:MM:SS.s)
TIME_DB_UNIT	Attribute	hours
UTC	Attribute	Timestamp at integration midpoint (UTC)
UTC_UNIT	Attribute	hours
UT_DATE	Attribute	Date at integration midpoint (UTC YYYY-MM-DD-hh:mm:ss)
WIND_DIR	Attribute	Wind direction
WIND_DIR_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
WIND_SPD	Attribute	Wind speed
WIND_SPD_UNIT	Attribute	km/hr
ZE	Attribute	Antenna zenith angle
ZE_DRIVE_RATE	Attribute	Zenith drive rate
ZE_DRIVE_RATE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees/min
ZE_UNIT	Attribute	degrees
/beam N/metadata	Group	_
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF group containing
	Accilbace	observation metadata
NAME	Attribute	metadata
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_meta
/beam_N/metadata/band_params	Dataset	-
		The state of the s

CENTRE_FREQ_UNIT	Attribute	MHz
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Metadata specific to the frequency bands of the antenna beam
DUMP_TIME	Attribute	Band dump time
DUMP_TIME_UNIT	Attribute	s
HIGH_FREQ	Attribute	Band range high frequency
HIGH_FREQ_UNIT	Attribute	MHz
LABEL	Attribute	Band label
LOW_FREQ	Attribute	Band range low frequency
LOW_FREQ_UNIT	Attribute	MHz
NAME	Attribute	band_params
N_CHANS	Attribute	Number of channels in band
N_DUMPS	Attribute	Number of spectral data dumps in band
N_POLS	Attribute	Number of polarisations (1, 2, 4)
POL_TYPE	Attribute	Polarisation type (AABBCRCI for 4 pol coherence data where AA and BB are the direct products of the two input channels A and B and CR and CI are the real and imaginary parts of the cross product A* B; AA+BB for 1 pol data with summed orthogonal products; AABB for 2 pol data)
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
/beam_N/metadata/cal_band_params	Dataset	-
CENTRE_FREQ	Attribute	Band centre frequency
CENTRE_FREQ_UNIT	Attribute	MHz
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Metadata specific to the frequency bands of the antenna beam
DUMP_TIME	Attribute	Band dump time
DUMP_TIME_UNIT	Attribute	S
HIGH_FREQ	Attribute	Band range high frequency
HIGH_FREQ_UNIT	Attribute	MHz
LABEL	Attribute	Band label
LOW_FREQ	Attribute	Band range low frequency
LOW_FREQ_UNIT	Attribute	MHz
NAME	Attribute	band_params
N_CHANS	Attribute	Number of channels in band
N_DUMPS	Attribute	Number of spectral data dumps in band
N_POLS	Attribute	Number of polarisations (1, 2, 4)
POL_TYPE	Attribute	Polarisation type (AABBCRCI for 4 pol coherence data where AA and BB are the direct products of the two input channels A and B and CR and CI are the real and imaginary parts of the cross product A* B; AA+BB for 1 pol data with summed

		orthogonal products; AABB for 2 pol data)
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
/config	Group	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF group containing configuration parameters as defined at the time of the observation
NAME	Attribute	config
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_config
/config/backend_config	Dataset	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Astronomy backend configuration
NAME	Attribute	backend_config
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
/config/cal_backend_config	Dataset	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Astronomy backend configuration (calibration)
NAME	Attribute	backend_config
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
/metadata	Group	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	SDHDF group containing
	1130212433	observation metadata
NAME	Attribute	metadata
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_meta
/metadata/beam_params	Dataset	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Metadata specific to the antenna beam
LABEL	Attribute	Beam label
NAME	Attribute	beam_params
N_BANDS	Attribute	Number of frequency bands
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
SOURCE	Attribute	Source name
/metadata/history	Dataset	-
DATE	Attribute	Date (UTC YYYY-MM-DD-hh:mm:ss)
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Metadata specific to the processing history of the file
NAME	Attribute	history
PROC	Attribute	Process name
PROC_ARGS	Attribute	Process command arguments
PROC_DESCR	Attribute	Process description
PROC_HOST	Attribute	Host machine running the process

SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
/metadata/primary_header	Dataset	-
CAL_MODE	Attribute	Calibration mode (ON OFF)
DATE	Attribute	File creation date (UTC YYYY-MM-DD-hh:mm:ss)
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	General observation metadata
FILE_FORMAT	Attribute	File format
FILE_FORMAT_VERSION	Attribute	File format version
HDR_DEFN	Attribute	File format definition
HDR_DEFN_VERSION	Attribute	File format definition version
INSTRUMENT	Attribute	Backend instrument name
NAME	Attribute	primary_header
N_BEAMS	Attribute	Number of beams
OBSERVER	Attribute	Observer name
OBS_TYPE	Attribute	Observation type (TRACK SCAN)
PID	Attribute	Project ID
RECEIVER	Attribute	Receiver name
SCHED_BLOCK_ID	Attribute	Schedule block ID
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
TELESCOPE	Attribute	Telescope name
UTC_START	Attribute	Observation start (UTC YYYY-MM-DD-hh:mm:ss)
/metadata/schedule	Dataset	-
DATE	Attribute	Date (UTC YYYY-MM-DD-hh:mm:ss)
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Metadata specific to the scheduling of the observation
NAME	Attribute	schedule
SCHED_BLOCK	Attribute	Schedule block contents
SCHED_HOST	Attribute	Schedule host machine
SCHED_VERSION	Attribute	Schedule template version
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
/metadata/software_versions	Dataset	-
DESCRIPTION	Attribute	Metadata specific to software packages used for creating or processing the file
NAME	Attribute	software_versions
PROC	Attribute	Process name
SDHDF_CLASS	Attribute	sdhdf_table
SOFTWARE	Attribute	Software package
SOFTWARE_DESCR	Attribute	Software package description

Appendix B: SDHDF Version History

SDHDF Versions

SDHDF v2.0 (Latest: June 8th 2021)

- Implement configuration file for use by any telescope
- Add weights group to definition
- Enable metadata copy if existing, to prevent unnecessary database query duplication
- Metadata for wind direction and wind speed parameters are now the right way around
- Enable splitting observation by frequency band
- Fix metadata query string not making it into history table
- Replace deprecated H5py create scale with make scale

SDHDF v1.9.2

- Incorporate 32-bin calibrator dataset
- Fix missing PROC ARGS in history dataset
- Add metadata query string to history dataset
- Fix missing reference to InfluxDB in software_versions dataset
- Minor additions/fixes to modules and metadata

SDHDF v1.9.1

- Fix OBS TYPE
- Minor additions/fixes to modules and metadata

SDHDF v1.9

- Added OBS TYPE to primary header dataset
- Hierarchical structure updated to allow for multiple beams
- Add position offsets to obs params datasets
- Minor additions/fixes to modules and metadata

SDHDF v1.8

- Incorporated an interpolation routine for InfluxDB output
- Added telescope config class
- InfluxDB observation metadata (including pointing) are accurate to within +/-1 second of time

Minor additions/fixes to modules and metadata

SDHDF v1.7

- Re-processed observations from and including UTC START: 2018-12-19-07:40:30
- InfluxDB observation metadata (including pointing) are accurate to within +/-5 seconds of time
- Metadata comprises the SDHDF definition by default
- Added 'history', 'rfi_excision', 'software_versions', 'weights' and 'cal_weights' datasets

SDHDF v1.6

- 'time' and 'cal time' datasets changed to 'obs params' and 'cal obs params', now incorporating time and observation metadata from InfluxDB
- 'obs params' and 'cal obs params' dataset values now all refer to the timestamp at the start of the integration
- Enabled data from partial integrations to be incorporated
- Minor fixes to unit datasets
- Implemented header metadata comparison with input data file contents (header does not necessarily reflect contents)
- Added 'band header' dataset for sub-/zoom-band metadata
- Added extra parameters to 'primary_header' dataset

SDHDF v1.5

- Updated time axis method to fix intervals, add integration index and time since start columns to time datasets, and set MJD to integration mid-point
- Minor fixes to array shapes
- Updated SDHDF definition with backend header descriptions
- Fixed missing dimension scales
- Fixed incorrect cal-on cal-off bin ordering
- No InfluxDB metadata
- Processed observations from UTC START: 2019-04-09*

SDHDF v1.4

- Implemented fix to correctly order integrations in time
- Implemented separate datasets for cal-on and cal-off
- No InfluxDB metadata

Processed observations from and including UTC START: 2019-04-02-01:25:28

SDHDF v1.3

- First official complete run with real data
- Medusa calibration (preproc) data included
- Implemented independent frequency datasets to allow for sub-bands with different frequency resolutions
- Primary header intact but not finalised
- No InfluxDB metadata
- Processed observations from and including UTC_START: 2018-12-19-07:40:30

SDHDF v1.2

- Data from second commissioning run (P737)
- Incorrect and/or missing header information
- Medusa calibration (preproc) data included
- No InfluxDB metadata

SDHDF v1.1

- Data from first commissioning run (BL, P737)
- Incorrect and/or missing header information
- No calibration (preproc) data
- No InfluxDB metadata

SDHDF v1.0

- Data from first commissioning run (P737)
- Incorrect and/or missing header information
- Preliminary SDHDF structure
- · Draft naming scheme implemented
- No Medusa calibration (preproc) data
- No InfluxDB metadata

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