Supplementary Material (1) for Xiaodong Qin et al.:

GROT: A new rotation file format for GPlates

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Revision: 2238 Author: christian Date: 2013-04-26

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Introduction

GPlates and the GPlate Geological Information Model (GPGIM) and the GPlates markup language (GPML) have opened new ways of working with plate tectonic data. Whereas the feature-centric data model has been vastly improved, the way the rotation model data is handled has not changed since the early days of the PLATES software. There is, however, a need to enhance the "richness" of the rotation file in terms of metadata, bibliographic annotation, revision

histories and integration of rotation uncertainty estimates. I propose to model this new standard on the currently implemented GMT OGR format and a Multimarkdown-type set of attributes which should allow for an easy, streamlined processing in tools such as awk, Python or simple shell scripts as well as integration of these enhanced features into the GPlates software.

Commented lines in current rotation files

Previously rotation files only allowed comments if they were denoted as 999 rotations. This is error prone as already pointed out during the early phases of the GPlates development and cumbersome when directly working with rotation files in a text editor.

An example of a commented line using the current practice of replacing the Plate ID of the moving plate with a 999 to disable it. The inactive rotation sequence data looks like this:

999 rotations to comment out lines

999 200.00 -55.810 -41.520 101.880 802 ! FLI-ANT Norton & Sclater 1979 fit

This methods has the severe disadvantage, that the original plate ID (PlateID1, moving plate) is lost when inserting a comment. Secondly the comment area is not structured well enough for automatic processing, e.g. extracting bibliographic references related to individual rotations or groups of rotations. It is quite easy to conceive that simple file exchange in collaborations or the omission of metadata can lead to a significant loss of important information contained in the rotation file. In addition, the introduction of novel methods, such as deformation, or Hellinger-style rotation uncertainty parameters requires a much larger set of rotations to be dealt with.

*The GPlates rotation file format – *.grot*

The new GPlates rotation file format encapsulates important rotation metadata in a simple and logical way. It emulates various language syntaxes such as GMT OGR, MultiMarkDown, LATEX Python and XML to provide a clean, logical and easy-to-use metadata framework. The file suffix for the new rotation file format is *.grot for GPlates rotation file, pronounced g-rot (and not grot...).

The new file format uses *.grot as extension

The *.grot syntax: Basic features

The following section outlines the proposed new standard for encoding metadata (essentially everything beyond the mandatory

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rotation parameters) which is backward-compatible, and machine-digestible. Please send comments or feedback to Christian Heine (mailto:christian.heine@sydney.edu.au).

Flags: Comments and moving plate rotation sequences

Two new flags are introduced in the new *.grot rotation file format:

```
Flags: # for comments and > for denoting moving plate rotation sequences
```

```
# for commenting lines out
> denoting moving plate rotation sequences
```

Lines starting with # and followed by text are ignored by GPlates unless they contain marked @ATTRIBUTE data. If the # is followed by a valid rotation pole specification, the line will be read by GPlates but the rotation pole itself will be disabled (inactive). In the new file format commented lines and comments would appear as:

Lines starting with # and followed by text are *ignored* by GPlates

Lines starting with # and followed by a valid rotation pole specification are regarded *disabled/inactive* by GPlates

```
# Comment which is ignored by GPlates
@C"Comment which is read by GPlates and associated with the next rotation pole below"
288 200.00 -55.81 -41.52 101.88 802
#288 200.00 -55.81 -41.52 101.88 802 @C"Comment read by GPlates but DISABLED rotation"
```

For legacy applications using rotation files a simple awk one-liner using RegExp can be used strip off all commented lines or simply preced them by a 999 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 999 # rotation line.

A new Moving Plate Rotation Sequence (MPRS) is introduced in this version of the rotation file. The MPRS serves as header or "segment" and follows the idea of "bookmarking" individual blocks of rotation sequences in various text editors as well as in GPlates as well as the concept of multi line segments in GMT. Detailed info on the syntax of the MPRS in Sec. Moving Plate Rotation Sequence (MPRS) header.

Moving Plate Rotation Sequences (MPRS) are all rotations applying to an individual moving plate, including cross overs

```
> @MPRS:pid"002" @MPRS:code"PHS" @MPRS:name"Pacific Hotspots"

002  0.780  49.3000  -49.500  -1.020  901

002  2.580  53.7200  -56.880  -2.660  901

002  5.890  59.6500  -66.050  -5.390  901

002  8.860  62.8700  -70.870  -8.230  901
```

Standardised metadata attribute/value format

Metadata attributes recognised by GPlates in the new format have a specific format. They are prefixed by an "@" symbol followed by a text string which is the name of the attribute. The attribute value is @ATTRIBUTE"VALUE" is the basic metadata format

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enclosed in a pair of double quotes """. The allowed set of keywords is listed completely in Sec. "Attribute List".

```
@ATTRIBUTE"VALUE"
```

The syntax allows to have multiple fields for the Value. These fields must be separated by vertical bars/pipes without whitespace before or after the attribute (akin to GMT OGR):

Attribute Values can have multiple fields

```
@ATTRIBUTE"Value 1 | Value 2 | Value 3"

@MPRS"101|NAM|North America"
```

The following variations for the different attribute:value pairs are allowed, depending on the complexity of the original attribute:

Attributes can have (nested) child attributes

```
@ATTRIBUTE:subattribute"Value"

@MPRS:name"North America"

@MPRS:pid"101"

@MPRS:code"NAM"
```

Attribute and subattributes allow nesting at deeper levels. Consider the following example:

Nested attributes can be written in compact or verbose forms

```
# Template
@ATTRIBUTE:subattribute:subsubattribute"Value"

# Compact version
@DC:contributor"JOCA|John Cannon|john.cannon@sydney.edu.au"

# Extended version
@DC:contributor:name"John Cannon"
@DC:contributor:id"JOCA"
@DC:contributor:email"john.cannon@sydney.edu.au"
```

Here, one complex set of subattribute and subsubattributes can be combined in one line or listed separately in sequence on individual lines.

Attribute aliases and external structures

This method also allows the creation of *aliases* which can be created by referencing certain fields to reduce complexity of nested parent:children attributes. In the current version the use of user-defined

Nested attributes can be aliased

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aliases is not supported. Example:

```
User-defined aliases are not supported at present
```

```
#Template
@ATTRIBUTE:subattribute"ID | Name | Email"

# Header info
@DC:contributor"JOCA | John Cannon | john.cannon@sydney.edu.au"
@DC:contributor"MCHIN | Michael Chin | michael.chin@sydney.edu.au"
@DC:contributor"CHHEI | Christian Heine | christian.heine@sydney.edu.au"

# This creates an alias
# However, user-defined aliases are not supported currently!
alias @AU = @DC:contributor:id

# Use alias in rotation sequence
@AU"JOCA"
@AU"CHHEI"
@AU"MCHIN"
```

In this example, an attribute and subattribute (DC:contributor) contains a list of values, all separated by a vertical bar/pipe. These attribute values conform to a standardised list where the first element is a unique Author ID, the second specifies the real world name of this author and the third his email. The attribute alias can now be created by assigning the @AU attribute a list of possible values which are all derived from all available DC:contributor"ID" fields.

This setup allows even to fetch complex structures from external files. Say we keep a BibTeX bibliographic database along with our rotation file. In this file, bibliographic data is collected, with each entry having a unique identifier (the so-called citekey). Using nested attributes and aliases we are able to create the following setup:

Attributes can reference external sources

```
# Header
@BIBINFO:bibliographyfile"file://rotationfile.bib"

# Alias
alias @REF = @BIBINFO:bibliographyfile:citekey

# Actual rotation metadata
@REF"Heine.AGU-GM.04"
```

This creates the possiblity to relatively link unique elements from one source into the rotation file by direct mapping of this unique identifier. A possibly query would yield the BibTeX record for the citation key "Heine.PEPI.08" in the associated bibliographic data file which was specified in the header record using the @BIBINFO:bibliographyfile attribute.

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Another application is the **possiblity of spatial queries** by referencing certain feature types in an associated GPML file or a remote data source. Consider the following example:

Attributes can be used to generate spatial queries

```
# Header
@GPML:namespace"http://www.earthbyte.org/Resources/GPGIM/public/"
# Alias
alias @CHRONID = @GPML:MagneticAnomalyIdentification:polarityChronID
# Rotation
101 33.100 75.9900 5.9800 9.770 714 @CHRONID"C13"
```

With the available information, GPlates can go and run a spatial query to extract all the relevant features from a source file (e.g. a GPML file with all magnetic anomaly picks). The query would look like:

Find all C13 picks on plate ID 101 which have a conjugate plate id 714

Naturally, a magnetic anomaly picking scheme has to be agreed upon or explicity stated in the CHRONID (e.g. the young end of C13–C13y). As the GPGIM specification states, this information should be included in the value part of this attribute. Refer to http://www.earthbyte.org/Resources/GPGIM/public/#PolarityChronId for details. Such a geospatial query can be run for all applicable features.

- CHRONID --> GPML:MagneticAnomalyIdentification:polarityChronID
- AU --> DC:contributor:id

Currently supported aliases are:

- REF --> BIBINFO:bibliographyfile:citekey
- DOI --> BIBINFO:doibase:doi
- GTS --> GEOTIMESCALE:id

File structure

The new rotation file format is subdivided into two parts:

- 1. a file header containing metadata and global definitions used in the rotation sequences (Sec. *File header*)
- the rotation sequence body (Sec. File body), composed of individual moving plate rotation sequences (MPRS) which are in turn composed of lines containing rotation data (adhereing to the basic PLATES rotation file syntax)

*.grot Files have a Header and Body

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File header [mandatory]

New GPlates rotation files have a mandatory file header which must be present in all rotation files. The file header contains important information on how to processes different parts of the file and also carries important metadata, such as information on the Geological Time Scale used for rotations. Apart from the mandatory metadata in the header, there are also optional blocks which allow the user to put revision information or any other data the user finds necessary. Future version of GPlates (> 1.3) will include the opportunity to edit this information through a GUI.

The file header follows the core elements of the Dublin Core metadata initiative which specifies 15 standard tags to identify electronic documents (see http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-terms).

Let's start out with the mandatory information in the file header, here's the overview:

The file header contains global metadata which are referenced in the file body. It adheres to specific format and contains mandatory attributes

ROTATION FILE VERSION

The first line uses the @GPLATESROTATIONFILE:version"xx" attribute to specify that this file adheres to the new rotation file standard and gives the current rotation file version number.

@GPLATESROTATIONFILE:version — File format versioning
@GPLATESROTATIONFILE:version — File format versioning

@GPLATESROTATIONFILE:version"1.0"

DUBLIN CORE DOCUMENT INFORMATION

The subsequent attributes use the @DC parent attribute to denote a set of Dublin Core metadata describing the file content. This also includes links to licenses, modification dates and proper citations for the file. See the complete list and explanation of the header attribute data in Sec. *Header attribute list*.

@DC — document metadata

```
@DC:namespace"http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"
@DC:title"GPlates rotation file - NEW ROTATION FORMAT SAMPLE FILE"
@DC:creator:name"Christian Heine"
@DC:creator:email"mailto:christian.heine@sydney.edu.au"
@DC:creator:url"http://www.gplates.org"
@DC:creator:affiliation"EarthByte Research Group, School of Geosciences"
@DC:creator:affiliation"The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia"
@DC:rights:license"Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)"
@DC:rights:url"http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/"
@DC:date:created"2/06/11 4:08:05 PM"
@DC:date:modified"$Date: 2013-04-27 06:49:08 +1000 (Sat, 27 Apr 2013) $"
@DC:coverage:temporal"0-600 Ma"
@DC:bibliographicCitation"""Chin, Mueller, Cannon, Landgrebe, Heine,
                            Watson, Turner (2012) The GPGIM vol:pp-pp,
                            J. Digitial Earth. doi:xxxxxxxxx """
@DC:description"""
```

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```
A sample rotation file in the new GPlates rotation file format v1.1

Based on moving Indian/Atlantic hotspots (O'Neill et. al. 2005)
to 100 Ma and true polar wander corrected palaeomagnetic
reference frame (derived from Steinberger and Torsvik 2008)
from 100 - 200 Ma. 250 Ma is the extent of this rotation model.
Pacific absolute reference frame based on Wessell and Kroenke 2008
with a switch to Wessel et. al. 2006 at 118.4 Ma
Reference for rotation model: Seton et. al. (submitted to ESR)"""
```

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

The next mandatory block is the contributor information related to individuals who have worked on various parts of the rotation sequences. In order to correctly attribute contributions which have not made it into publications, this section lists authors with their contact details and full name. The lines use the @DC:contributor form of the Dublin Core specifications and the value field contains multiple values. In most cases, especially in intra-institutional use, not all rotations are published in the form of a citable reference, enlisting contributing authors still provides a reference to the creator.

 ${\tt @DC:contributor} - {\tt Contributing} \\ {\tt authors}$

BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND REFERENCE SECTION

The next mandatory block encompasses the bibliographic or reference data valid for the file globally. The field contain a reference to a bibliographic data base in BibTeX format (see Sec. *Bibliographic data*) as well as to the GPlates Information Model (GPGIM) website and a base URL for the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). All these attribute will be referenced from the individual MPRS or rotations.

The inclusion of mandatory bibliographic reference data allows a future use of GPlates in conjunction with hyperlinks (through the DOI) to a publication as well as direct links to a bibliographic companion database file: @BIBINFO — Optional inclusion of bibliographic databases

```
@BIBINFO:bibfile"file://rotationfile_v2.bib"
@BIBINFO:doibase"http://dx.doi.org/"
@GPML:namespace"http://www.earthbyte.org/Resources/GPGIM/public/"
```

GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALES

One of the most important piece of metadata is information about the geological time scales (GTS) used to convert relative geological ages to absolute times. These GTS constantly evolve and a Base Aptian on some timescale from the 1990's has a few Million Years difference to a Base Aptian from the 2010's. The GTS are listed in the header section and are referenced through a tag at individual rotation level.

@GEOTIMESCALE — Mandatory inclusion of Geological Time Scales

```
# Template
@GEOTIMESCALE" ID | DOI/URL/ISSN (specify) | CiteKey | Bibliographic record/Comment"
# Multiline specification of GTS
@GEOTIMESCALE""" GEEK07 |
              doi:10.1016/B978-044452748-6.00097-3 |
              Gee.ToC.07
              Gee, J.S. and Kent, D.V. (2012) 5.12 - Source of Oceanic \
Magnetic Anomalies and the Geomagnetic Polarity Timescale, in: Treatise on\
Geophysics, Volume 5, Pages 455--507, Elsevier, Amsterdam"""
@GEOTIMESCALE""" CK95G94 |
            doi:10.1029/94JB03098; doi:10.1029/94JB01889|
             Cande.JGR.95; Gradstein.JGR.94 |
             S. C. Cande and D. V. Kent. Revised Calbration of the\
geomagnetic polarity timescale for the Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic. \
J. Geophys. Res., 100(B4):6093--6095, 1995.;
F. M. Gradstein, F. P. Agterberg, J. G. Ogg, J. Hardenbol, P. van Veen, \
J. Thierry, and Z. Huang. A Mesozoic time scale. J. Geophys. Res.,\
99:24051--24074, 1994. doi:10.1029/94JB01889."""
@GEOTIMESCALE""" Absolute
             Absolute numerical time in Ma"""
```

OPTIONAL: REVISION HISTORY

The optional revision history block is used for versioning. The actual list of applicable subattributes depends on the versioning system used. Each Keyword should be shortened and prefixed by <code>@REVISIONHIST[keyword]"value"</code>. Example for a Subversion repository setup:

@REVISIONHIST — Optional inclusion of versioning information

@REVISIONHIST"\$Id: CHHEI_RotFileStd.tex 2238 2013-04-26 20:49:08Z christian \$"

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File body: The rotation sequences

The file body contains all Moving Plate Rotation Sequences (MPRS) which are in turn composed of individual lines listing rotation parameters.

MOVING PLATE ROTATION SEQUENCE (MPRS) HEADER

The moving plate rotation sequence (MPRS) specifies a block of rotations which all have the same moving plate id. It is denotes by a > flag at the start of each line and allows multi-line headers. The introduction of a header for any moving plate rotation sequence follows the idea that most metadata is applied to a whole sequence of rotations and allows for better "bookmarking" in GPlates' rotation file editor or other external text editors. The rotation header sequence denominator is modelled as follows:

@MPRS — The Moving plate rotation sequence

```
# Template
> @MPRS:pid"PID1" @MPRS:code"XXX" @MPRS:name"Moving Plate name"

# Compact version
> @MPRS"288 | FLI" | Falkland Islands"

# Extended version
> @MPRS:pid"288" @MPRS:code"FLI" @MPRS:name"Falkland Islands" @C"optional comment"

# Multiline version
> @MPRS:pid"288"
> @MPRS:code"FLI"
> @MPRS:code"FLI"
> @MPRS:name"Falkland Islands"
> @C"Optional comment" @AU"CHHEI"
```

Oftentimes the full moving plate rotation sequence is taken from a single author/publication. In that case, adding metadata to each rotation line would increase the possibility for mistakes. The new rotation file format allows the user to specify metadata for a whole MPRS in the header which then applies to all rotations in that sequence:

>@MPRS — Default metadata for individual rotations

```
> @MPRS:pid"002" @MPRS:code"PHS" @MPRS:name"Pacific Hotspots"
002
      2.580 53.7200 -56.880 -2.660 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
       5.890 59.6500 -66.050 -5.390 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
002
      8.860 62.8700 -70.870 -8.230 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002 12.290 65.3700 -68.680 -10.300 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
      17.470 68.2500 -61.530 -15.500 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
      24.060 68.7800 -69.830 -20.400 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
      28.280 67.7200 -70.800 -23.600 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
      33.540 66.5700 -68.730 -27.700 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
     40.100 65.4300 -64.250 -31.600 901 @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
```

can now be replaced with

```
> @MPRS:pid"002" @MPRS:code"PHS" @MPRS:name"Pacific Hotspots"
> @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
002
      2.580 53.7200 -56.880 -2.660 901
                             -5.390 901
002
      5.890 59.6500 -66.050
002
      8.860 62.8700 -70.870
                              -8.230
                                      901
002
      12.290 65.3700 -68.680 -10.300
002
     17.470 68.2500 -61.530 -15.500
                                      901
002 24.060 68.7800 -69.830 -20.400
                                      901
002
    28.280 67.7200 -70.800 -23.600 901
002
     33.540 66.5700 -68.730 -27.700 901
002
     40.100 65.4300 -64.250 -31.600 901
```

In case there are changes to individual rotations in the MPRS these can be done on line/rotation pole level and will overide the MPRS header data:

Multiline comment metadata in @MPRS header

```
> @MPRS:pid"002" @MPRS:code"PHS" @MPRS:name"Pacific Hotspots"
> @PP"PHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.08" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
       2.580 53.7200 -56.880 -2.660 901
      5.890 59.6500 -66.050 -5.390 901
002
      9.0 62.8700 -70.870 -8.230 901 @AU"CHHEI" @T"2012-05-03" @C"Changed time from 8.860"
002
     12.290 65.3700 -68.680 -10.300 901
002
     17.470 68.2500 -61.530 -15.500 901
002
      24.060 68.7800 -69.830 -20.400
                                      901
002
      28.280 67.7200 -70.800 -23.600
                                      901
002
      33.540 66.5700 -68.730 -27.700
                                      901
002
     40.100 65.4300 -64.250 -31.600
                                      901
```

Given the above, the new 9.0 Ma rotation will carry the metadata specified on for the individual pole and *only the specified pole metadata overrides the MPRS metadata* (non-overridden metadata is still inherited from the MPRS).

ROTATION LINE DATA

We adopt the legacy PLATES rotation format which consists of 6 mandatory parameters specifying the stage pole of any given rotation. The format has not changed and is fully compatible with legacy applications.

Backwards compatibility with PLATES rotation data

```
PID1 STARTAGE POLELAT POLELON ANGLE PID2
```

PID1 Plate ID 1 (moving plate)

FROMAGE Excuse the french. Start age.

PLAT Rotation pole latitude

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PLON Rotation pole longitude

ROTANGLE Rotation pole angle

PID2 Fixed Plate, plate ID 2

New optional meta data attributes from the dictionary can be added to the individual lines. The optional attributes follow the structure layed out in Sec. *Attribute format* and can consist of the following elements:

Rotation metadata attributes

- @PP | Abbreviated description of the relative plate motions, e.g. Africa-South America to @PP"SAM-AFR", the abbreviated names have to adhere to the @MPRS:code from the MPRS.
- @C Free form comment
- @GTS:id Unique ID of the geological time scale used in idenfiying the magnetic anomaly picks. References the GEOTIMESCALE:id in the file header
- @AU Abbreviation/ID of modification author. *Alias* which references DC:contributor:id in the file header.
- @DOI Digitial object identifier for reference related to that individual rotation. *Alias* to @BIBINFO:doibase:doi.
- @REF Citation key for reference related to that individual rotation. *Alias* for @BIBINFO:bibliographyfile:citekey.
- @HELL set of attribute:value pairs for uncertainty parameters for this rotation. For details see Sec. *Uncertainty parameters*.
- @T Modification date/time. Adhere to ISO standard (ie [YYYY]-[MM]-[DD]T[hh]:[mm]:[ss]).
- @CHRONID Magnetic anomaly chron ID. Alias to GPML:MagneticAnomalyIdentification:polarityChronID and adheres to strict naming convention. The identifier used for magnetic picks evolved to be a combination of letters and numbers, of the form

(C/M)<number><combination of letters>

See http://www.earthbyte.org/Resources/GPGIM/public/#PolarityChronId for details.

Example:

833 53.300 -14.1900 130.4100 -0.7200 801 @PP"LHR-AUS" @DOI"10.1029/98JB00386" @CHRONID"C240"

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Uncertainty data for rotations

The Hellinger method allows to compute statistical uncertainties for rotations, representing them as a series of parameters and a 3D-covariance matrix.

These parameters are:

Hellinger Statistics attributes for indi-

vidual rotations

r total misfit (sum of squares of the weighted distances of data points to great circle segment) in [km]

N number of data points

s number of great circle segments

dF number of degrees of freedom

- $\hat{\kappa}$ kappahat, quality factor which relates the uncertainties assigned to the data to their true estimates
- a 3 × 3 covariance matrix which needs to be divided by the factor kappahat to convert in square radians

An example matrix is given here obtained from the file satl.34 and running the hellinger1 program:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 8.71113084 & -4.33230877 & -4.97091355 \\ -4.33230877 & 4.01436998 & 3.23033819 \\ -4.97091355 & 3.23033819 & 3.6493551 \end{pmatrix} \times 10^{-7}$$
 (1)

So far, Hellinger-fit criteria have not been explicity expressed in the rotation file. For the new standard, the Hellinger statistics need to be included explicity in the format expressed below. The complete Hellinger values can either be represented as coherent string with the some matrix values omitted due to the rotational symmetry of the matrix:

```
@HELL"r|(N,s)|dF|kappahat|(($x_1$,$x_2$,$x_3$)($y_2$,$y_3$)($z_3$))" or as a separate set of arguments using the @HELL Parent:Children attributes:
```

@HELL: r total misfit

@HELL: Ns number of data points and segment length

@HELL: dF number of degrees of freedom

@HELL: kappahat Quality factor $\hat{\kappa}$

@HELL: cov Covariance matrix, here we ONLY USE $((x_1, x_2, x_3)(y_2, y_3)(z_3))$ due to the rotational symmetry of the matrix used.

Example:

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Bibliography information

Each rotation file should come with a companion bibliographic reference database in the ascii-based BibTeX format (http://www.bibtex.org/Format/). The choice for BibTeX is driven by the fact that the format is text-based, accepted as one of the bibliographic data standards and many software tools allow to either directly use this format (BibDesk, JabREF) or import/export it (e.g. Endnote). At a future data the bibliographic information can possibly be incorporated consistently into the rotation file format without the need for two separate files.

Companion BibTeX databases

Online resources

- GPlates web site: http://www.gplates.org
- BibTeX resources: http://www.bibtex.org/
- Info about Dublin Core: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin_ Core

Attribute list

Header attribute list

All Dublin Core elements are prefixed with a "DC".

@GPLATESROTATIONFILE Mandatory: Declaration of file type

- @ = :version Written by GPlates: Declaration of file version number.
- @ = :documentation Written by GPlates: URL of standard specification (this document).

@DC:namespace Mandatory: Dublin Core Elements RDF schema link. Value: "http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/".

- @DC:title Title of the document, e.g. "GPlates rotation file NEW ROTATION FORMAT SAMPLE FILE" .
- @DC:creator name, email, affiliation Mandatory: Name, contact, URL and affiliation of the creator of the document, separated by vertical bars (|). Multiple occurrences of attribute allowed. Example: "Christian Heine | christian.heine@sydney.edu.au | basinatlas.org | EarthByte, Geosciences, USYD". Structure similar to DC:contributor without unique id field.
- @DC:rights:license Mandatory: Appropriate licensing terms for the data included in the file. Example: "Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)".
- @DC:rights:url Mandatory: URI of licensing terms for the data.
 Example: "http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.
 0/".
- @DC:date:created Mandatory: Creation date of document, follow ISO standard (ie [YYYY]-[MM]-[DD] T[hh]:[mm]:[ss]). Example "2011-06-01T09:08:05".
- @DC:date:modified Optional: Latest modification date of document. Multiple occurrences of attribute allowed. Can hold revision date if under revision control. Example "Date: 2012-05-08 16:55:58 +1000 (Tue, 08 May 2012)".
- @DC:coverage:temporal Optional: Temporal coverage of data included in this file. Example "o-600 Ma".
- @DC:bibliographicCitation Optional: Full, plain text bibliographic citation for the current file. Example: "Mueller, R.D. and Seton, M. and Roest, W. (2008): Global. Geochem., Geophys., Geosys. xx:".
- @DC:description Mandatory: Description of data set contained in this file. Multiline comment wrapped in triple quotation marks """ (like in Python) are allowed, as are multiple ocurrences of the attribute to mimick the same effect as for multiline value. Example: " A sample rotation file in the new GPlates rotation file format V1.1".
- @REVISIONHIST Optional. Parent attribute for data which is under a revisioning system. User can generate child attributes by separating them with a colon (:) from the parent tag. Example:
 @REVISIONHIST:id"rotationfile_v2.rot 1774 2012-05-08 06:55:58Z christian". See example rotation file.
- @BIBINFO Optional. Parent attribute for bibliographic reference data related to this rotation file.

@DC:namespace

@DC:title

@DC:creator

@DC:rights:license

@DC:rights:url

@DC:date:created

@DC:date:modified

@DC:coverage:temporal

@DC:bibliographicCitation

@DC:description

@REVISIONHIST

@BIBINFO

@ = :bibliographyfile Optional. URI for location of bibliographic reference data in BibTeX format. Example: "file://rotationfile_

1-0.bib"

@ = :doibase Mandatory. URL for resolving DOIs used in the bibliographic data. Example: "http://dx.doi.org/".

@GPML Parent attribute for GPGIM-derived attributes.

@GPML:namespace Mandatory. URI for the location of the GPGIM Schema document. Currently: http://www.earthbyte.org/Resources/GPGIM/stable/.

@DC:contributor Mandatory: Author data attribute for every contributor to this file. Data needs to be split into at least 5 different fields separated by vertical bars (|): ID — Unique ID for contributor (CHHEI), maps to @AU in rotation sequence comments; Real Name – of contributor (Christian Heine); Email — Email of contributor; URL — Website of contributor; Institute, Postal address, other contact details for contributor. Fields can be left blank.

@GEOTIMESCALE Mandatory. Bibliographic data for individual time scales used. Data is split into *at least 3 fields*, separated by vertical bars (|) and can extend over multiple lines using the triple quotation marks. These are 1) **ID** — unique ID of timescale to be used in the @GTS tag for the individual rotation sequences. 2) **DOI/URL/ISSN** — Unique identifier for publication the timescale is based upon, prefixing the actual values (like doi:12.12312/991823); 3) Plain text full **bibliographic reference** for timescale or comments.

Rotation sequence metadata

@MPRS Parent element for Moving Plate rotation sequence

@MPRS:pid Mandatory. Moving Plate ID. Denotes the start of a block of rotations which all belong to a single moving plate. Example @MPRS:pid"801".

@MPRS:code Mandatory. Unique letter acronym (variable length) for a moving plate. Example @MPRS:code"SAM" for South America.

@MPRS: name Mandatory. Unique full name for moving plate. Example: @MPRS: name "South America".

@PP Mandatory. Plate pair of moving plate—fixed plate as specified by plate IDs, allowed values can only be composed of valid @MPRS:code values. Example @PP"SAM-AFR" for rotations expressing the rotation between South America relative to Africa. @BIBINFO:blbiographyfile

@BIBINFO:doibase

@GPML

@GPML:namespace

@DC:contributor

@GEOTIMESCALE

@MPRS

@MPRS:id

@MPRS:code

@MRPS:name

@PP

@REF @REF Optional. Unique citation key of bibliographic data used for this rotation. Maps to entries specified in @BIBINFO:bibfile value. @DOI - Alias @DOI Optional. Digitial object identifier for bibliographic data used for this rotation. Maps to entries specified in @BIBINFO:doibase value for complete a valid URL. @AU - Alias @AU Optional. Author of rotation sequence data, maps to first field of @DC:contributor, which is the unique contributor ID. Example: @AU''CHHEI''. @T @T Optional. Modification time stamp for rotation sequence data. Adhere to ISO standards in the for of YYYY-MM-DD [HH:MM:SS TZ]. Example: "2012-05-04 10:30:22+10 ". @C @C Optional. Freeform comment. @GTS @GTS:id Mandatory. Geological time scale ID. Maps to first field of @GTS: info which is the unique identifier for the timescale used. @CHRONID - Alias @CHRONID Alias for Magnetic anomaly chrons as specified in GPGIM. References: @GPML:MagneticAnomalyIdentification:AnomalyPickID. @HELL @HELL Parent element for Hellinger statistical fit parameters. @HELL:r @HELL:r Total misfit. @HELL:Ns @HELL: Ns number of data points and segment length. @HELL:dF @HELL:dF number of degrees of freedom. @HELL:kappahat @HELL: kappahat Quality factor $\hat{\kappa}$ @HELL:cov @HELL:cov Covariance matrix, here we ONLY USE $((x_1, x_2, x_3)(y_2, y_3)(z_3))$ due to the rotational symmetry of the matrix used.

Rotation file example

```
@GPLATESROTATIONFILE:version"1.0"
 @GPLATESROTATIONFILE:documentation"http://www.gplates.org/grot/"
 # ---- SUPPORTED ATTRIBUTE ALIASES
 # CHRONID --> GPML:MagneticAnomalyIdentification:polarityChronID
 # AU --> DC:contributor:id (Author)
# REF --> BIBINFO:bibliographyfile:citekey (Reference)
# DOI --> BIBINFO:doibase:doi
 # GTS --> GEOTIMESCALE:id
 # To maintain backward compatibility with other Plate Tectonic software
# using the PLATES rotation file format syntax, simply prefix
# your commented lines and the ones with new attribute data with
 # the following string:
 # 999 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 999 # whatever comment/attribute
          EXAMPLE:
           @DC:creator:name"Christian Heine"
          will turn into (without leading #):
          999 0.0 0.0 0.0 999 # @DC:creator:name"Christian Heine"
 separating them with a | (vertical bar). Values can be enclosed in
                    | single quotes.
| PLEASE CONSULT http://www.gplates.org/grot/ for valid attributes
 # DC:subattr| DublinCore document description metadata (see documentation)
                    | GPlates Markup Language Schema (can use GPML:FeatureType as subset)
# MPRS:pid | Denotes Moving Plate ID

# MPRS:name | Moving plate full name

# MPRS:code | Moving plate letter code, usually 3-4 capital letters
 # PP
                    | Plate pair with Plates denoted as letter acronyms separated by minus sign (-)
 # T
                    | Modification date/time in YYYY-MM-DD [TZ HH:MM:SS]
"
@DC:namespace"http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"
@DC:title"GPlates rotation file - NEW ROTATION FORMAT SAMPLE FILE"
@DC:creator:name"Christian Heine"
@OC:creator:name"Christian Heine"
@OC:creator:meal"mailto:christian.heine@sydney.edu.au"
@OC:creator:url"http://www.gplates.org"
@OC:creator:affillation"EarthByte Research Group, School of Geosciences"
@OC:creator:affillation"The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia"
@OC:rights:license"Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)"
@OC:rights:url"http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/"
@OC:date:modified"Spate: 2013-04-18 08:52:27 +1000 (Thu, 18 Apr 2013) $"
@OC:coverage:temporal" 6.60 Ms"
 @OC:coverage:temporal'9-600 Ma"
@OC:bibliographicCitation"""Chin, Mueller, Cannon, Landgrebe, Heine,
Watson, Turner (2012) The GPGIM vol:pp-pp,
J. Digitial Earth. doi:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx"""
 @DC:description"""
   A sample rotation file in the new GPlates rotation file format v1.0
  THIS ETIE IS NOT A FULL KINEMATIC MODEL WHICH CAN BE USED WITH
  GPLATES. ITS PURPOSE IS ONLY TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEW GROT FILE FORMAT!
  Taken from the current GPlates release rot file
 Taken from the current GPlates release rot file Based on moving Indian/Atlantic hotspots (0'Meill et. al. 2005) to 100 Ma and true polar wander corrected palaeomagnetic reference frame (derived from Steinberger and Torsvik 2008) from 100 - 200 Ma. 250 Ma is the extent of this rotation model. Pacific absolute reference frame based on Wessell and Kroenke 2008 with a switch to Wessel et. al. 2006 at 118.4 Ma"""
 # --- REVISION HISTORY INFORMATION -----
 "
@REVISIONHIST"$Id: rotationfile_1-0.grot 2229 2013-04-17 22:52:27Z christian $"
 # ---- BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND DATA REFERENCE INFORMATION -----
 @BIBINFO:bibfile"file://rotationfile_v2.bib
 @BIBINFO:doibase"http://dx.doi.org/
 @GPML:namespace"http://www.earthbyte.org/Resources/GPGIM/public/"
 # ---- AUTHOR INFORMATION -----
                                                                                                                                  | http://www.earthbyte.org | Geosciences, The University of Sydney, Australia"
| http://www.earthbyte.org | Geosciences, The University of Sydney, Australia"
| http://www.geodynamics.no | University of Oslo, Norway"
                                    | R. Dietmar Muller | dietmar.muller@sydney.edu.au
| Maria Seton (Sdrolias) | maria.seton@sydney.edu.au
 @DC:contributor"RDM | R. Dietmar Muller
 @DC:contributor"MS
 @DC:contributor"CG
                                    | Carmen Gaina
                                                                          | carmen.gaina@fys.uio.no
 @DC:contributor"""CHHEI |
                            Christian Heine |
christian.heine@sydney.edu.au |
                            http://www.earthbyte.org |
EarthByte Group, School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney, Australia"""
RS | Christopher R. Scotese |
Earthbyte ...

@DC:contributor*CRS | Christopher R. S

@DC:contributor*IAL | Larry A. Lawver

@DC:contributor*IMO | Jan W. Dalziel

@DC:contributor*UMO | Lisa M. Gahagan

DOC:contributor*DN | Dirk Nuernberg
                                                                                                                                                                                 UT/Paleomap Project"
UTIG PLATES Project"
                                                                                                                                                                                  UTIG PLATES Project"
                                                                                                                                                                                  UTIG PLATES Project"
CAU-Kiel University, Germany"
```

```
@DC:contributor"EBYTE | EarthByte Group |
@DC:contributor"THT | Trond Helge Torsvik | Trond.Torsvik@fys.uio.no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | http://www.earthbyte.org | School of Geosciences, Sydney Uni"
| http://www.geodynamics.no | PGP, University of Oslo, Norway"
      #---- GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE INFORMATION ------
      @GEOTIMESCALE""" GeeK07
                                                 doi:10.1016/B978-044452748-6.00097-3 |
    Gee, J.S. and Kent, D.V. (2012) 5.12 - Source of Oceanic Magnetic
Anomalies and the Geomagnetic Polarity Timescale, in: Treatise on
Geophysics, Volume 5, Pages 455äÄ$507, Elsevier, Amsterdam"""
@GEOTIMESCALE""" (CASGO4 |
                                                 Gee.ToC.07 |
                                                 doi:10.1029/94JB03098: doi:10.1029/94JB01889 |
                                                  S. C. Cande and D. V. Kent. Revised Calbration of the geomagnetic
                                                 polarity timescale for the Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic. J. Geophys
                                                 potentry (Imescate In the Late Cletateous and Cendont. J. Geophys.
Res., 100(B).6093å5,6095, 1995;
F. M. Gradstein, F. P. Agterberg, J. G. Ogg, J. Hardenbol, P. van Veen,
J. Thierry, and Z. Huang. A Mesozoic time scale. J. Geophys. Res.,
                                                 99:24051âĂ$24074, 1994. doi:10.1029/94JB01889.
     @GEOTIMESCALE""" Absolute
                                                 Absolute numerical time in Ma"""
    # --- END ROTATION FILE HEADER ----
     > @MPRS:code"PHS"
          @MPRS:name"Pacific Hotspots"
@MPRS:name"Pacific Hotspots"
@PP"BHS-PAC" @REF"Wessel.JGR.88" @D01"10.1029/2007JB005499" @C"Model WK08-A" @GTS"GeeK07"
02 0.780 49.3000 0.000 0.000 9.00 901
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                              2.580 53.7200 -56.880
5.890 59.6500 -66.050
                                8.860 62.8700 -70.870
                                                                                                                       -8.230 901
     002
                          12.290 65.3700 -68.680 -10.300 901
17.470 68.2500 -61.530 -15.500 901
                         foo pole by John
24.666 68.7800 -69.830
28.280 67.7200 -70.800
33.540 66.5700 -68.730
40.100 65.4300 -64.250
53.350 60.6000 -69.670
61.100 56.9300 -76.930
74.500 50.9300 -78.350
83.500 47.3000 -82.100
95.000 46.9000 -82.680
106.200 51.3200 -85.800
112.300 52.1700 -85.800
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-27.700 901
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-60.100
     002
                                                                                                                       -62.400
                       118.400 52.5300 -80.330
125.000 54.1300 -88.180
131.900 56.2200 -112.250
144.000 54.4300 -123.570
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5.9800 9.770 714 @CHRONID C13"
-1.2000 12.600 714 @CHRONID C13"
      101
                           47.900 74.9000
                                                                                          -4.6000 15.610 714 @CHRONID"C21"
    101 55.900 80.6400
101 67.700 82.3000
@CHRONID"C34"
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21.510 714 @CHRONID"C30"
101 83.500 76.8100 -20.5900 29.510 714
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101 126.700 66.1100 -18.9500 56.480 714 @REF"Mueller.97" @001"10.1029/96J801781"
101 131.900 65.9500 -18.5000 57.450 714 @REF"Mueller.97" @001"10.1029/96J801781"
101 137.700 66.5400 -17.9800 59.900 714 @REF"Mueller.97" @001"10.1029/96J801781"
101 154.300 67.1500 -13.8600 71.9800 64.750 714 @REF"Mueller.97" @001"10.1029/96J801781"
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101 190.900 64.3100 -15.1900 77.090 714 @REF Mueller.97" @001"10.1029/96J801781"
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very
     long
     102
                             0.000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 101
```

GPlates rotation File Format Specification

```
0.0000 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C13 Derived"
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-1.8100 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C20 Derived"
-2.8100 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C20 Derived"
-3.3300 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C21 Derived"
-3.7400 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C24 Derived"
-3.1600 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C25 Derived"
-5.7100 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C31 Derived"
-5.7100 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C31 Derived"
-11.0000 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C31 Derived"
-11.0000 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1016/S0012-821X(02)00499-5" @CHRONID"C31 Derived"
-11.0000 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1136/0091-7613(1909)017-61006:SFSITL>2.3.C0;2" @GTS"CK95G94" @CHRONID"C34"
-11.0000 101 @REF"Gaina.EPSL.02" @DOI"10.1136/0091-7613(1909)017-61006:SFSITL>2.3.C0;2" @CTS"CK95G94" @CHRONID"C34"
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-14.0000 101 @PP"GRN-NWA" @REF"Torsvik.RG.10" @DOI"10.1029/2007RG000227" @C"FITRECON"
-14.0000 101 @PP"GRN-NWA" @REF"Torsvik.RG.10" @DOI"10.1029/2007RG000227" @C"FITRECON"
                                                     33.100
                                                                                                                 0.0000
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                                                     40.100 62.4600 -28.0200
43.800 63.2500 -79.5800
47.900 60.6600 -97.2600
         102
                                                       49.700
                                                                                                         61.5800
                                                                                                                                                                         -97.0900
                                                                                                       39.6800 -116.1600
19.2800 -136.1900
41.1900 -169.5800
                                                   53.300
55.900
                                                     68.700
                                                       79.100 61.3800 -157.7000
                                             83.500 65.3000 -122.4500
92.000 66.6000 -119.4800
125.000 67.5000 -118.4800
### Company of the co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                701
701 @CHRONID"C5"
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