A Web-based Tool for Translating Unstructured Data from Dataloggers into Standard Formats

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Overview

- The Problem: Data Friction
- The Logger Problem
- Standard Formats to the Rescue (…or not)
- ρζητα
  - Architecture
  - Workflow
  - Current Status

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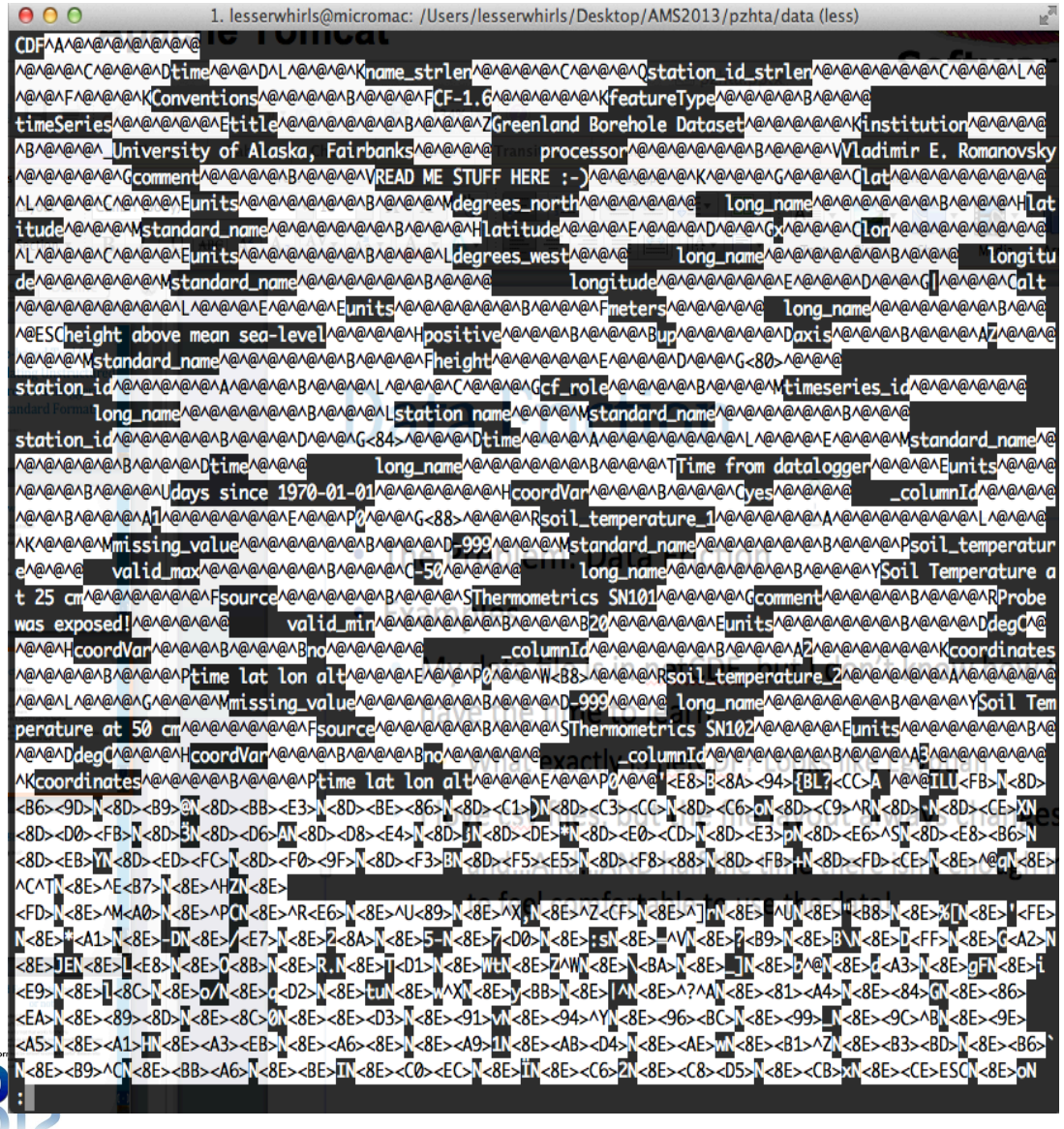
Data Friction

- The Problem: Data Friction
- Examples:
  - The data I need is stuffed into a netCDF file, but I don't know how to use it and don't have the time to learn.
    - I might like to learn, but I don't have the time.
    - Just what exactly IS netCDF? Looks like Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

Data Friction



Data Friction

- The Problem: Data Friction
- Examples:
  - My data file is in netCDF, but I don't know how to use it and don't have the time to learn.
    - I might like to learn, but I don't have the time.
    - Just what exactly IS netCDF? Looks like Egyptian Hieroglyphics.
  - I love csv files, but the file layout always changes!
    - and…And…AND half the time there isn't enough information available for me to feel comfortable using the data!

The "Logger Problem"

- What's the big deal?
  - Vast amount of datalogger output available
    - Typically in ASCII CSV format
    - *N* number of files, ~*N* number of layouts
    - Not in a format to easily enable search, subset capabilities, other services
  - Value* added by placing into spreadsheet
- The "Logger Problem" is Huge for the Advanced Cooperative Arctic Data and Information Service (ACADIS) Project

Standard Formats to the Rescue!

- Solution: Standard Formats!

Standard Formats to the Rescue… or not…

- Solution: Standard Formats ☹

Standard Formats to the Rescue… or not…

- Solution: Standard Formats ☹

- Why this Does Not Work:
  - Data come in a format that works for the PIs
  - Why put effort into transforming into a a new format with very specific conformance constraints (e.g. CF)
  - Usually code must be written to convert “useful” dataset into “standard” dataset
    - Even more work to do *before getting to the science stuff*!

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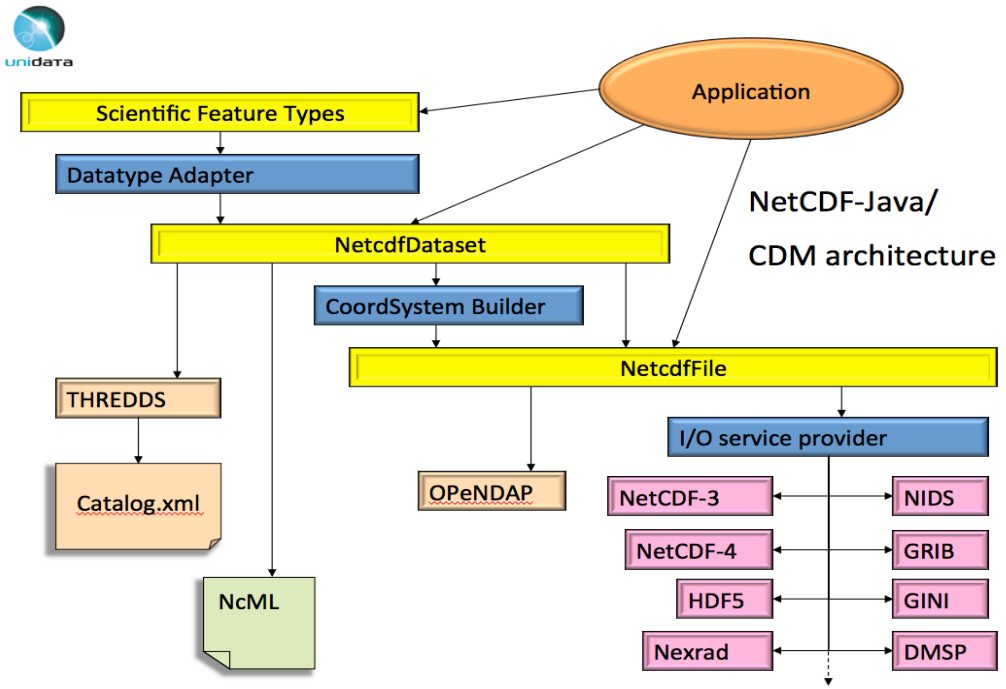
- What is ρξητα?
  - Vision: General Purpose Data Format converter
  - Goal: Get data into standard format ***while providing data users with the format <u>they want</u>***
  - Why?
    - Enable services such as search, subsetting, aggregation, etc. for observational datasets, without writing readers for each “flavor” of ASCII data

ρξητα - Architecture

- Basic Idea
  - Common Data Model (CDM)
    - netCDF-Java
  - I/O service provider (IOSP)
  - Web interface for collection of metadata
    - as needed
- The Idea is to get into CDM, then use IOSPs



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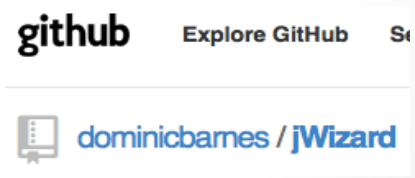
ρζητα - Architecture

- Java WebApp
  - Java
  - Apache Tomcat
  - Spring MVC
  - netCDF-Java(CDM)
  - JavaScript
    - jQuery, SlickGrid, jWizard

{js}



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ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry

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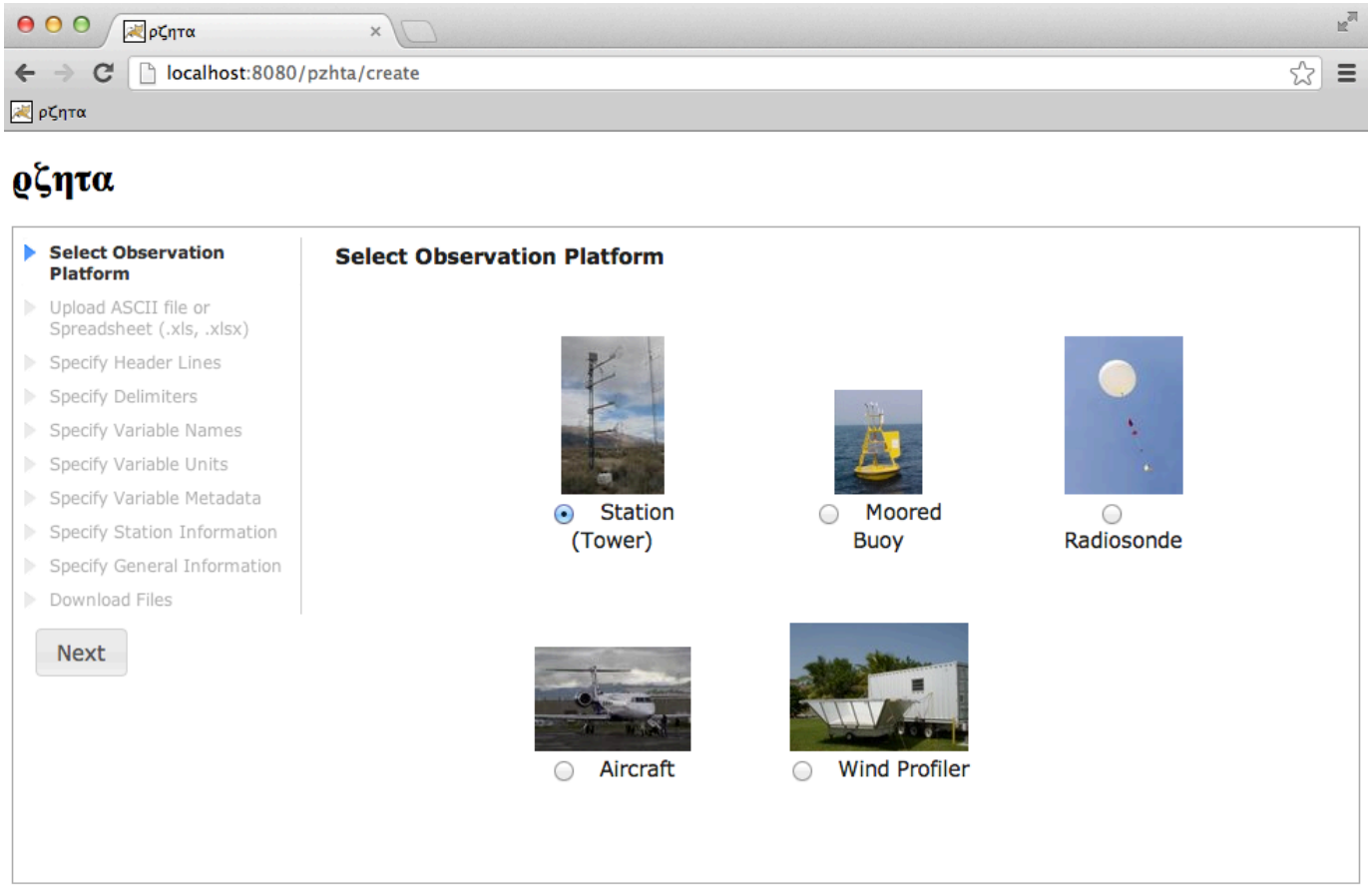
Define Discrete Sampling Geometry



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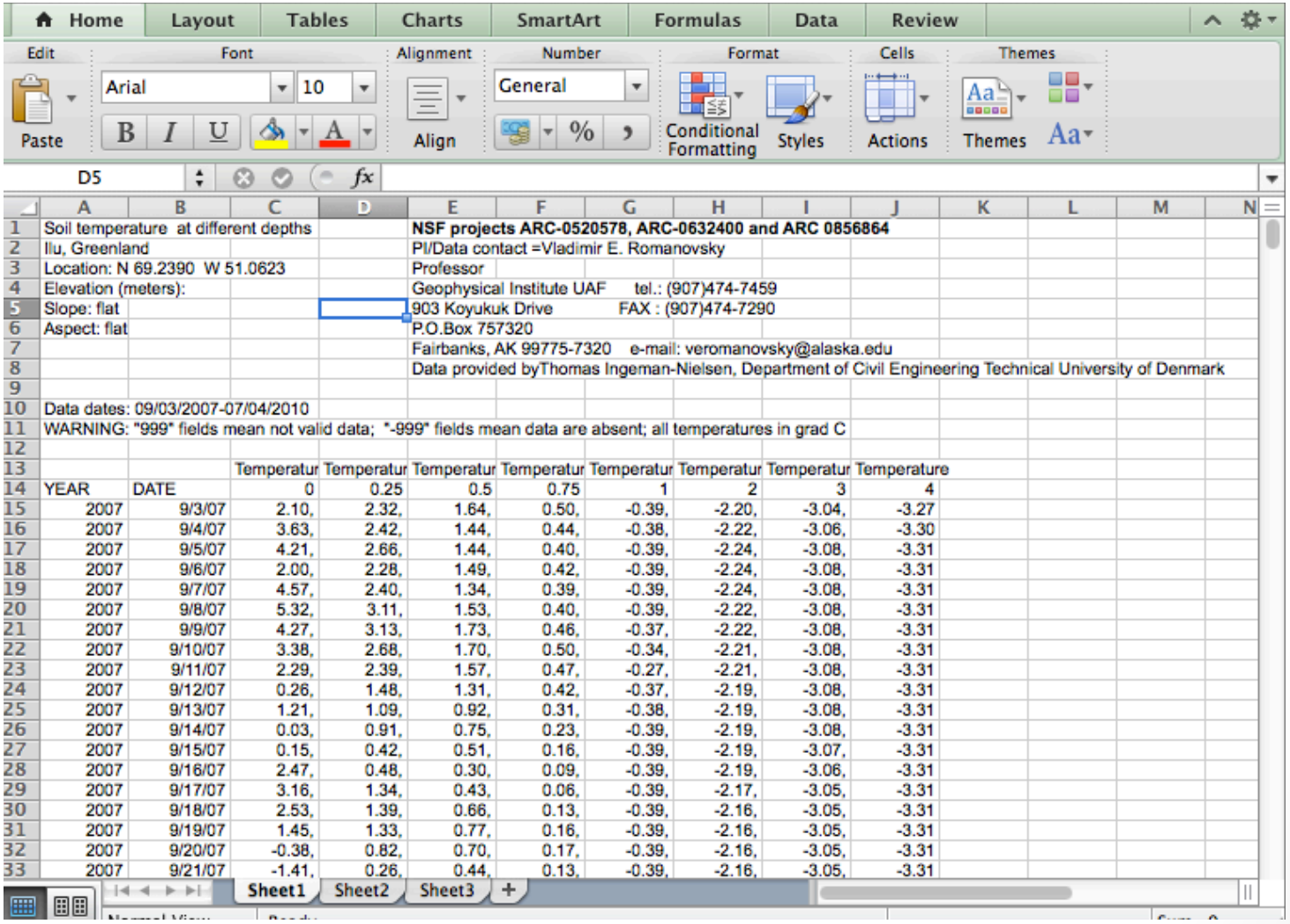
ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry
  - Upload CSV, XLS(X)

Example Input



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Soil temperature at different depths				**NSF projects ARC-0520578, ARC-0632400 and ARC 0856864**									
2	Ilu, Greenland				PI/Data contact =Vladimir E. Romanovsky									
3	Location: N 69.2390 W 51.0623				Professor									
4	Elevation (meters):				Geophysical Institute UAF tel.: (907)474-7459									
5	Slope: flat				903 Koyukuk Drive FAX : (907)474-7290									
6	Aspect: flat				P.O.Box 757320									
7					Fairbanks, AK 99775-7320 e-mail: veromanovsky@alaska.edu									
8					Data provided byThomas Ingeman-Nielsen, Department of Civil Engineering Technical University of Denmark									
9														
10	Data dates: 09/03/2007-07/04/2010													
11	WARNING: "999" fields mean not valid data; "-999" fields mean data are absent; all temperatures in grad C													
12														
13			Temperatur	Temperatur	Temperatur	Temperatur	Temperatur	Temperatur	Temperatur	Temperature				
14	YEAR	DATE	0	0.25	0.5	0.75	1	2	3	4				
15	2007	9/3/07	2.10,	2.32,	1.64,	0.50,	-0.39,	-2.20,	-3.04,	-3.27				
16	2007	9/4/07	3.63,	2.42,	1.44,	0.44,	-0.38,	-2.22,	-3.06,	-3.30				
17	2007	9/5/07	4.21,	2.66,	1.44,	0.40,	-0.39,	-2.24,	-3.08,	-3.31				
18	2007	9/6/07	2.00,	2.28,	1.49,	0.42,	-0.39,	-2.24,	-3.08,	-3.31				
19	2007	9/7/07	4.57,	2.40,	1.34,	0.39,	-0.39,	-2.24,	-3.08,	-3.31				
20	2007	9/8/07	5.32,	3.11,	1.53,	0.40,	-0.39,	-2.22,	-3.08,	-3.31				
21	2007	9/9/07	4.27,	3.13,	1.73,	0.46,	-0.37,	-2.22,	-3.08,	-3.31				
22	2007	9/10/07	3.38,	2.68,	1.70,	0.50,	-0.34,	-2.21,	-3.08,	-3.31				
23	2007	9/11/07	2.29,	2.39,	1.57,	0.47,	-0.27,	-2.21,	-3.08,	-3.31				
24	2007	9/12/07	0.26,	1.48,	1.31,	0.42,	-0.37,	-2.19,	-3.08,	-3.31				
25	2007	9/13/07	1.21,	1.09,	0.92,	0.31,	-0.38,	-2.19,	-3.08,	-3.31				
26	2007	9/14/07	0.03,	0.91,	0.75,	0.23,	-0.39,	-2.19,	-3.08,	-3.31				
27	2007	9/15/07	0.15,	0.42,	0.51,	0.16,	-0.39,	-2.19,	-3.07,	-3.31				
28	2007	9/16/07	2.47,	0.48,	0.30,	0.09,	-0.39,	-2.19,	-3.06,	-3.31				
29	2007	9/17/07	3.16,	1.34,	0.43,	0.06,	-0.39,	-2.17,	-3.05,	-3.31				
30	2007	9/18/07	2.53,	1.39,	0.66,	0.13,	-0.39,	-2.16,	-3.05,	-3.31				
31	2007	9/19/07	1.45,	1.33,	0.77,	0.16,	-0.39,	-2.16,	-3.05,	-3.31				
32	2007	9/20/07	-0.38,	0.82,	0.70,	0.17,	-0.39,	-2.16,	-3.05,	-3.31				
33	2007	9/21/07	-1.41,	0.26,	0.44,	0.13,	-0.39,	-2.16,	-3.05,	-3.31				

ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry
  - Upload CSV, XLS(X)
  - Define Parsing Information

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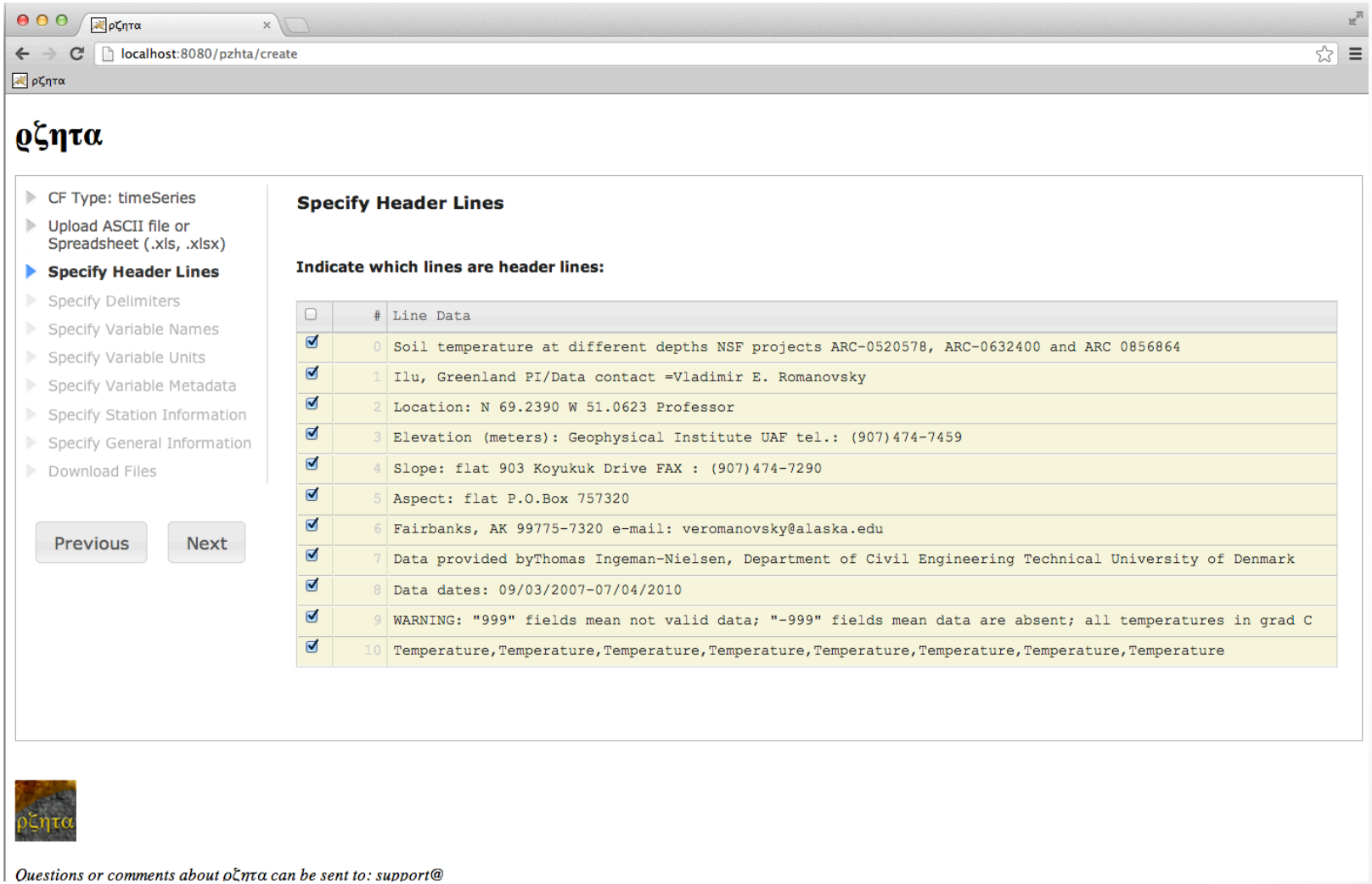
Define Parsing Information



ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry
  - Upload CSV, XLS(X)
  - Define Parsing Information
  - Define Variable Metadata

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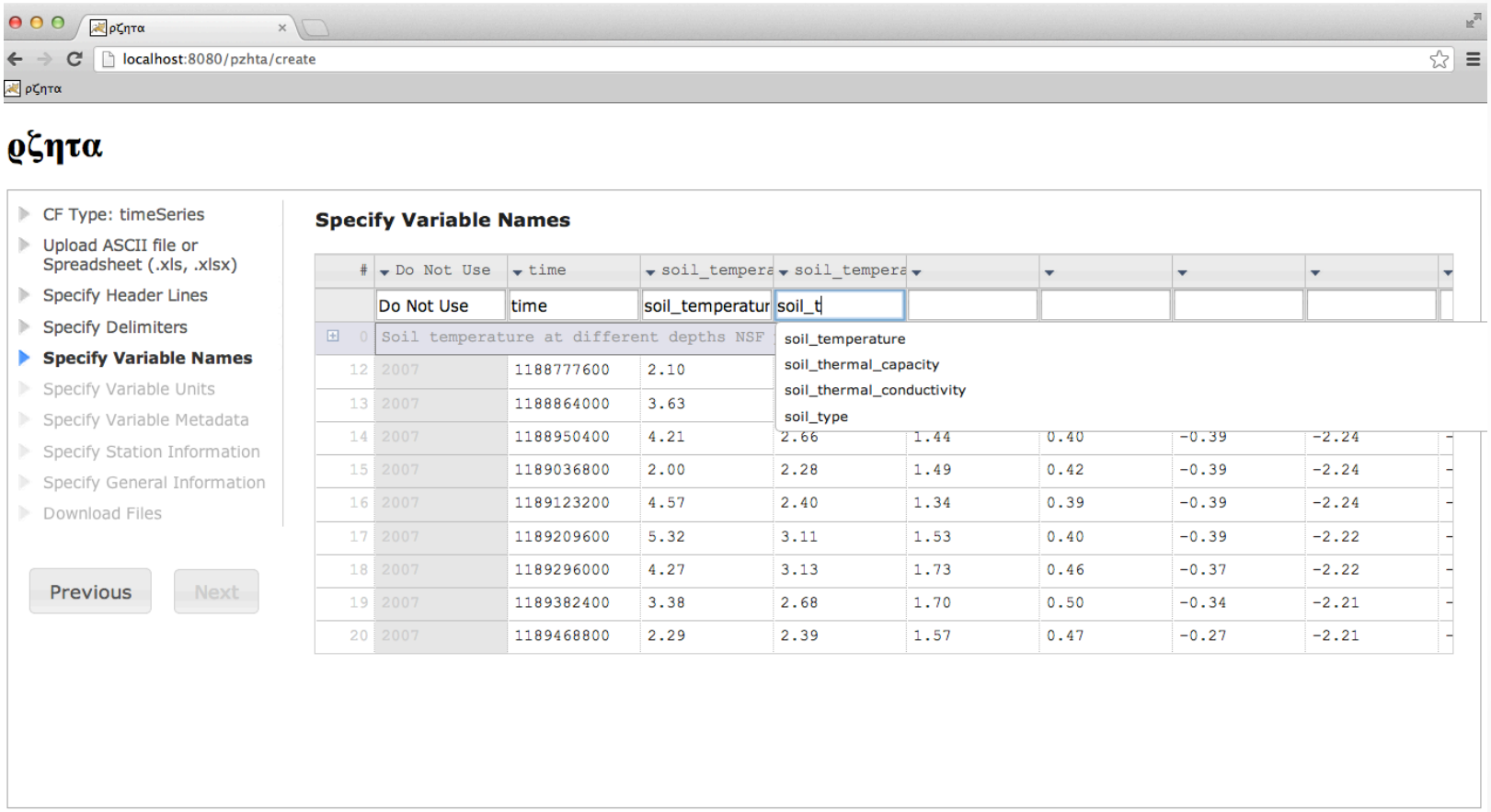
Define Variable Metadata



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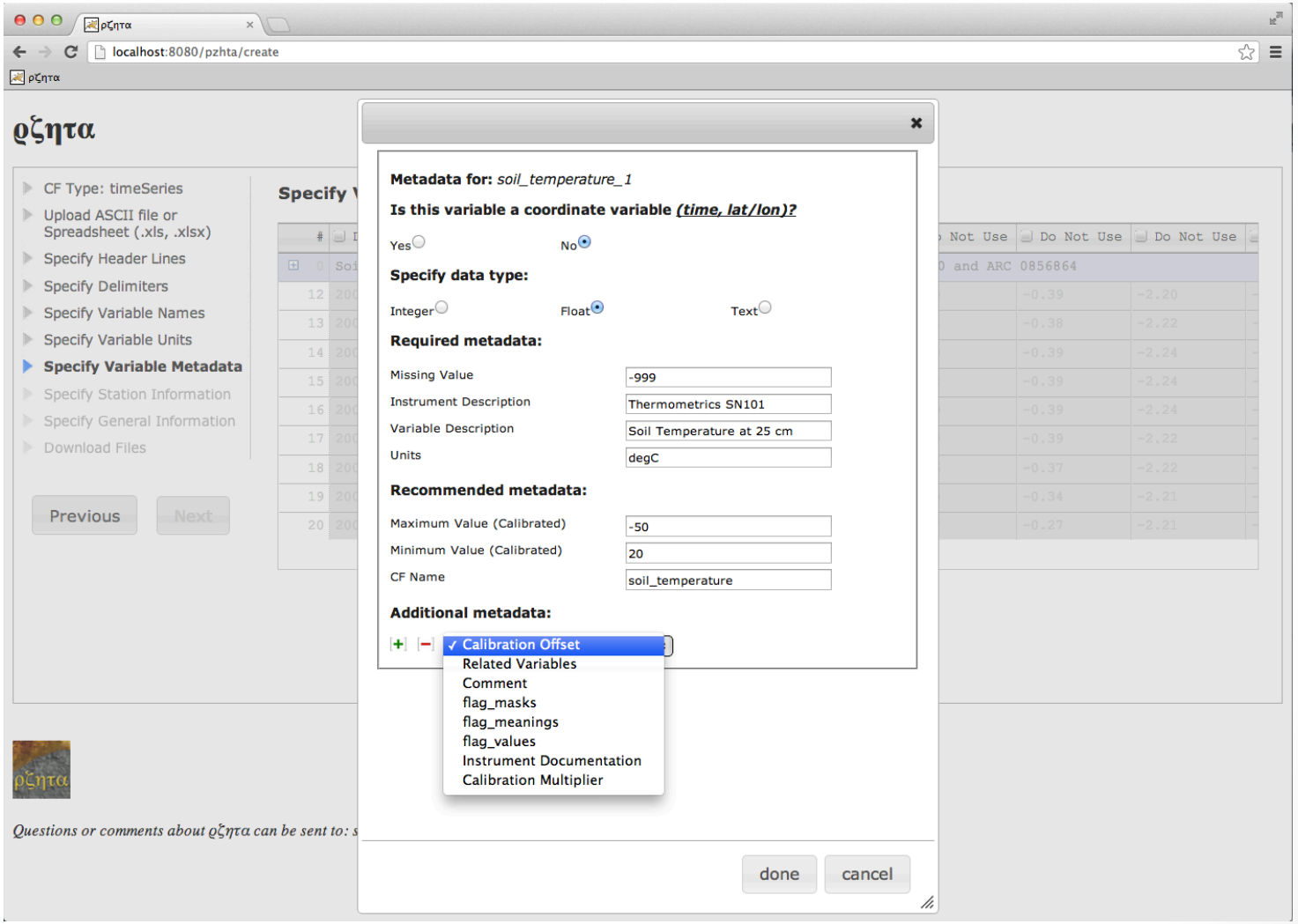
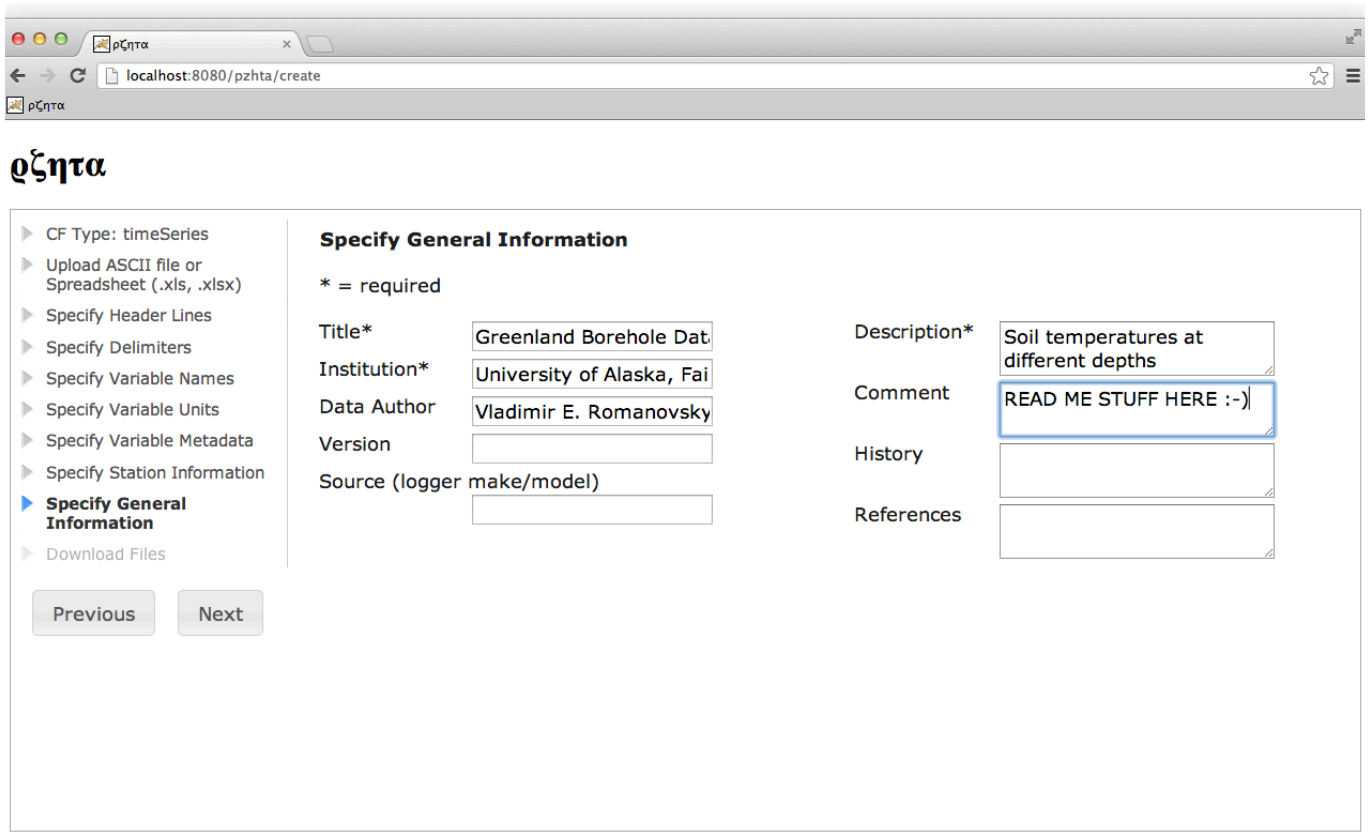
Define Variable Metadata



ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry
  - Upload CSV, XLS(X)
  - Define Parsing Information
  - Define Variable Metadata
  - Define Global Metadata

Define Global Metadata



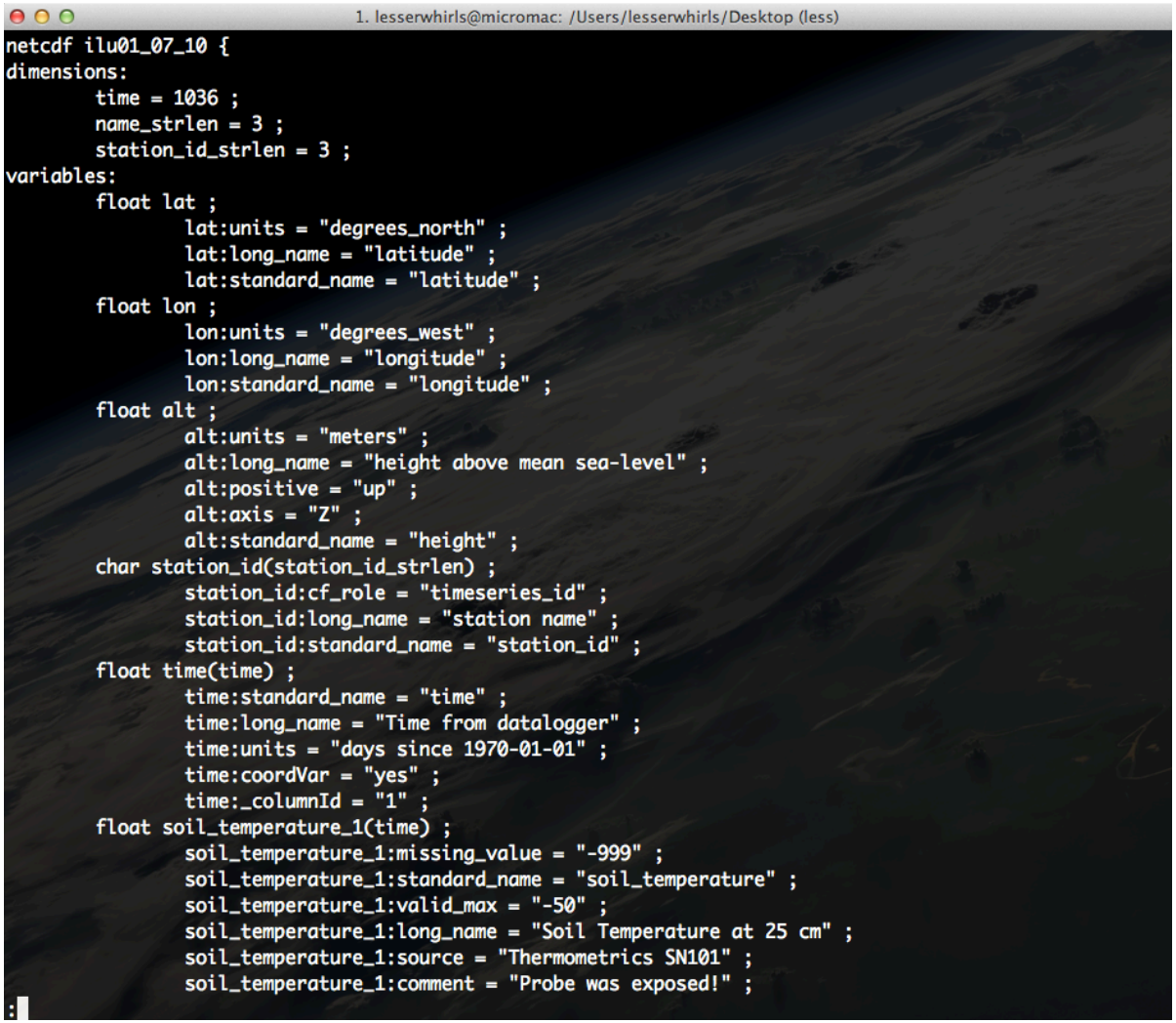
ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry
  - Upload CSV, XLS(X)
  - Define Parsing Information
  - Define Variable Metadata
  - Define Global Metadata
  - Transform

ρξητα - Workflow

- Workflow
  - Define Discrete Sampling Geometry
  - Upload CSV, XLS(X)
  - Define Parsing Information
  - Define Variable Metadata
  - Define Global Metadata
  - Transform
  - Return netCDF and Transaction Receipt (NcML file)

netCDF file (CF-1.6 Compliant)



Transaction Receipt (NcML file)

1. lesserwhirls@micromac: /Users/lesserwhirls/Desktop (less)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<netcdf xmlns="http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/namespaces/netcdf/ncml-2.2">
  <dimension length="1036" name="time"/>
  <attribute name="Conventions" value="CF-1.6"/>
  <attribute name="featureType" value="timeSeries"/>
  <attribute name="title" value="Greenland Borehole Dataset"/>
  <attribute name="institution" value="University of Alaska, Fairbanks"/>
  <attribute name="processor" value="Vladimir E. Romanovsky"/>
  <attribute name="title" value="Greenland Borehole Dataset"/>
  <attribute name="comment" value="READ ME STUFF HERE :-)"/>
  <variable name="lat" type="float">
    <attribute name="units" value="degrees_north"/>
    <attribute name="long_name" value="latitude"/>
    <attribute name="standard_name" value="latitude"/>
    <values>69.290</values>
  </variable>
  <variable name="lon" type="float">
    <attribute name="units" value="degrees_west"/>
    <attribute name="long_name" value="longitude"/>
    <attribute name="standard_name" value="longitude"/>
    <values>51.0623</values>
  </variable>
  <variable name="alt" type="float">
    <attribute name="units" value="meters"/>
    <attribute name="long_name" value="height above mean sea-level"/>
    <attribute name="positive" value="up"/>
    <attribute name="axis" value="Z"/>
    <attribute name="standard_name" value="height"/>
    <values>10</values>
  </variable>
  <dimension length="3" name="name_strlen"/>
  <variable name="station_id" type="string">
    <attribute name="cf_role" value="timeseries_id"/>
    <attribute name="long_name" value="station name"/>
    <attribute name="standard_name" value="station_id"/>
    <values>ILU</values>
  </variable>
:
```

ρξητα - Status

- Current Status
  - Import Single-block CSV, XLS(X)
  - Produce netCDF with NcML Transaction Receipt
    - Prepared for data portal submission
  - Will soon be on GitHub
- Next Steps
  - Enable Mining of Header block
  - Import Multi-block CSV, XLS(X) files
  - Allow Upload of CF1.6 netCDF Discrete Geometry (A.K.A. point) Files
  - Return “Standard” CSV or XLS(X) format
- Somewhat Larger Goals
  - Enable desktop use for easy subsetting on CDM files
    - E.g. Easy grid point times series extraction from netCDF or GRIB files (returned as what the user would like, of course)

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ρξητα - Questions

- Unidata Funded by NSF 0833450 (AGS)
  - http://www.unidata.ucar.edu
- The Advanced Cooperative Arctic Data and Information Service (ACADIS) Funded by NSF 1016034 (ARC)
  - http://www.aoncadis.org/

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