A Standard for Exchangeable Magnetotelluric Metadata

Working Group for Data Handling and Software - PASSCAL Magnetotelluric Program[1]

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1 Introduction

Researchers using magnetotelluric (MT) methods lack a standardized format for storing time series data and metadata. Commercially available MT instruments produce data in formats that range from proprietary binary to ASCII, and recent datasets from the U.S. MT community have utilized institutional formats or heavily adapted formats like miniSEED. In many cases, the available metadata for these time series are incomplete and only loosely standardized, and overall these datasets are not "user friendly". This lack of resources impedes the exchange and broader use of these data beyond a small community of specialists.

The IRIS PASSCAL MT facility maintains a pool of MT instruments that are freely available to U.S. Principal Investigators (PIs). Datasets collected with these instruments are subject to data sharing requirements, and an IRIS working group advises the development of sustainable data formats and workflows for this facility. Following in the spirit of the standard created for MT transfer function datasets, this document outlines a new metadata standard for MT time series. This standard is a key pillar of MTH5, a new data format which we propose for the international community of MT practitioners. Further information regarding MTH5 will be available later in 2020.

The Python 3 module written for these standards are found at `https://github.com/kujaku11/MTarchive/tree/tables`.

2 General Structure

The metadata for a full MT dataset are structured to cover details from single channel time series to the full survey. For simplicity each of the different scales of an MT survey and measurements have been categorized starting from largest to smallest (Figure 1). These categories are: `Survey`, `Station`, `Run`, `DataLogger`, `Electric Channel`, `Magnetic Channel`, and `Auxiliary Channels`. Each of these are described in subsequent sections. Required keywords are labeled as `True` and suggested keywords are labeled as `False` a user should try to use as much of the suggested metadata as possible for a full description of the data.

2.1 Metadata Keyword Format

The metadata key names should be self explanatory and they are structured as follows: `{category}.{name}`, where:

- `category` refers to a metadata category that has common parameters, such as `location` which will have a latitude, longitude, and elevation $\longrightarrow$ `location.latitude`, `location.longitude`, and `location.elevation`. These can be nested, for example `positive.location.latitude`
- `name` is a descriptive name, where words should be separated by an underscore. Note that only whole words should be used and abbreviations should be avoided. e.g. `data_quality`.

As described in this document a '.' represents the separator between different categories. The metadata can be stored in many different forms. Common are XML or JSON formats. See examples below for various ways to represent the metadata.

2.2 Formatting Standards

Specific and required formatting standards for location, time and date, and angles are defined below and should be adhered to.

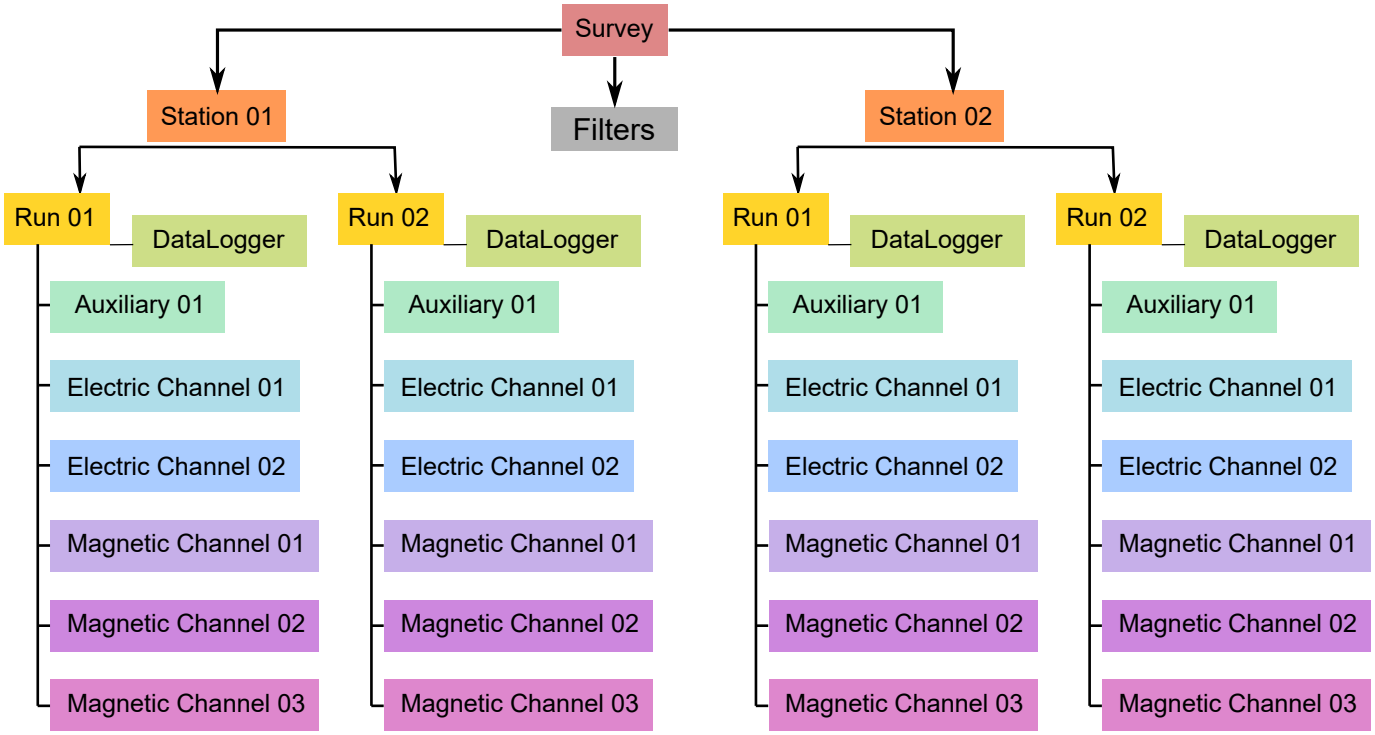

Figure 1: Schematic of a MT time series file structure with appropriate metadata. The top level is the *Survey* that contains general information about who, what, when, where, how the data were collected. Underneath *Survey* are the *Station* and *Filter*. *Filter* contains information about different filters that need to be applied to the raw data to get appropriate units and calibrated measurements. Underneath *Station* are *Run* which are blocks where data were collected at a single sampling rate with common start and end time. Finally *Channel* which describes each channel of data collected, this can be an *Auxiliary*, *Electric*, or *Magnetic*. Metadata is attributed based on the type of data collected in the channel.

2.2.1 Time and Date Format

All time and dates are given as an ISO formatted date-time string in the UTC time zone. The ISO date time format is `YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss.ms+00:00`, where UTC is represented by `+00:00`. If the data requires a different time zone this can be accommodated but it is recommended that UTC be used whenever possible. Milliseconds can be accurate to 6 decimal places. ISO dates are formatted `YYYY-MM-DD`.

2.2.2 Location

All latitude and longitude locations are given in decimal degrees in the well known datum specified at the `Survey` level. **NOTE: The entire survey should use only one datum that is specified at the Survey level.**

- All latitude values must be $< |90|$ and all longitude values must be $< |180|$.
- Elevation and other distance values are given in meters.
- Datum should be one of the well known datums, WGS84 is preferred, but others are acceptable.

2.2.3 Angles

All angles of orientation are given in decimal degrees. Orientation of channels should be given in geographic coordinates where angles are assumed to be clockwise positive from Geographic North = 0. If a station was collected not in geographic coordinates this needs to be specified in `station.orientation.option` and the `station.layout_rotation_angle` needs to be specified.

2.3 Units

Acceptable units are only those from the International System of Units (SI). Only long names in all lower case are acceptable. Table 1 summarizes common acceptable units:

Table 1: Acceptable units

Measurement Type	Unit Name
Angles	degrees
Distance	meters
Latitude/Longitude	decimal degrees
Resistance	ohms
Resistivity	ohm-meters
Temperature	celsius
Time	seconds
Voltage	volts

2.4 String Formats

Each metadata level has a column that describes the style of the input. These are described in Table 2. Note that any list should be comma separated.

Table 2: Acceptable String Formats

Style	Description	Example
free form	an unregulated string that can contain {a-z, A-Z, 0-9} and special characters	This is free form!
alpha numeric	a string that contains no spaces and only characters {a-z, A-Z, 0-9, -, /, _}	WGS84 or GEOMAG-USGS
controlled vocabulary	Only certain names or words are allowed, in this case examples of acceptable values are provided in the documentation as | option01 | option02 | ...]. The ... indicates that other options are possible but have not been defined yet.	station.orientation.option = geographic
list	list of entries using a comma separator	'Ex, Ey, Hx, Hy, Hz, T'
number	a number in the form of the data type, number of decimal places has not been implemented yet	10.0 for float or 10 for int
date	ISO formatted date YYYY-MM-DD in UTC	2020-02-02
date time	ISO formatted date time YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss.ms+00:00 in UTC	2020-02-02T12:20:45.123456+00:00
email	a valid email address	person@mt.org
url	a full URL that a user could put into a web browser	https://www.passcal.nmt.edu/

3 Survey

A survey describes an entire data set that covers a specific time span and region. This may include multiple PIs in multiple data collection episodes but should be confined to a specific experiment. The `Survey` metadata category describes the general parameters of the survey.

Table 3: Attributes for Survey Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
acquired_by.author Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of the person or persons who acquired the data. This can be different from the project lead if a contractor or different group collected the data.	person name
acquired_by.comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: email	Email of the contact person who acquired the data. This is in case there are any questions about aspects of how the data were collected or any inconsistencies in the data.	expert digger
archive_id Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: alpha numeric	Alphanumeric name provided by the archive. For IRIS this will be a 5 character string.	YKN20
archive_network Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: alpha numeric	Network code given by PASSCAL/IRIS/FDSN. This will be a two character string that describes who and where the network operates.	EM
citation_dataset.doi Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: url	The full url of the doi number provided by the archive that describes the raw data	http://doi.10.adfabe
citation_journal.doi Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: url	The full url of the doi number for a journal article(s) that uses these data. If multiple journal articles use these data provide as a comma separated string of urls.	http://doi.10.xbsfs, or http://doi.10.xbsfs, http://doi.10.xbsfs2

Attributes for Survey Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
comments Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Any comments about the survey that are important for any user to know.	Solar activity low.
country Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Country(s) countries that the survey is located in. If multiple input as comma separated names	"USA, Canada"
datum Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	The reference datum for all geographic coordinates throughout the survey. It is up to the user to be sure that all coordinates are projected into this datum. Should be a well-known datum: [WGS84 | NAD83 | OSGB36 | GDA94 | ETRS89 | PZ-90.11 | other].	WGS84
geographic_name Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Geographic names that encompass the survey. These should be broad geographic names. Further information can be found at https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/board-on-geographic-names	Yukon
name Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Descriptive name of the survey, similar to the title of a journal article.	MT Characterization of Yukon Terrane
northwest_corner.latitude Required: True Units: decimal degrees Type: float Style: number	Latitude of the northwest corner of the survey in the datum specified.	23.134
northwest_corner.longitude Required: True Units: decimal degrees Type: float Style: number	Longitude of the northwest corner of the survey in the datum specified.	14.23

Attributes for Survey Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
project Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Alphanumeric name for the project. This is different than the archive_id in that it describes the overall project. For example if the project is to estimate geomagnetic hazards that project may be GEOMAG but the survey could be YKN20, which will be the archive_id.	GEOMAG
project_lead.author Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	author name	Name the project lead. This should be the person in charge who is responsible for the data.
project_lead.email Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: email	Email of the project lead. This is in case there are any questions about data.	mt.guru@em.org
project_lead.organization Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Organization name of the project lead.	MT Gurus
release_status Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	How the data can be used. The options are based on Creative Commons (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/). Options: [CC0 | CC BY | CC BY-SA| CC BY-ND | CC BY-NC-SA | CC BY-NC-ND]	CC0
southeast_corner.latitude Required: True Units: decimal degrees Type: float Style: number	Latitude of the southeast corner of the survey in the datum specified.	23.134
southeast_corner.longitude Required: True Units: decimal degrees Type: float Style: number	Longitude of the southeast corner of the survey in the datum specified.	14.23

Attributes for Survey Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
summary Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Summary paragraph of the survey including the purpose; difficulties; data quality; summary of outcomes if the data have been processed and modeled.	Long project of characterizing mineral resources in Yukon
time_period.end_date Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: date	End date of the survey in UTC.	1995-02-01
time_period.start_date Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: date	Start date of the survey in UTC.	2020-06-21

3.1 Example Survey XML Element

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<survey>
    <acquired_by>
        <author>MT Graduate Students</author>
        <comments>Multiple over 5 years</comments>
    </acquired_by>
    <archive_id>SAM1990</archive_id>
    <archive_network>EM</archive_network>
    <citation_dataset>
        <doi>https://doi.###</doi>
    </citation_dataset>
    <citation_journal>
        <doi>https://doi.###</doi>
    </citation_journal>
    <comments>None</comments>
    <country>USA, Canada</country>
    <datum>WGS84</datum>
    <geographic_name>Yukon</geographic_name>
    <name>Imaging Gold Deposits of the Yukon Province</name>
    <northwest_corner>
        <latitude type="float" units="decimal degrees">-130</latitude>
        <longitude type="float" units="decimal degrees">75.9</longitude>
    </northwest_corner>
    <project>AURORA</project>
    <project_lead>
        <email>m.tee@mt.org</email>
        <organization>EM Ltd.</organization>
        <author>M. Tee</author>
    </project_lead>
    <release_status>CC0</release_status>
    <southeast_corner>
        <latitude type="float" units="decimal degrees">-110.0</latitude>
        <longitude type="float" units="decimal degrees">65.12</longitude>
    </southeast_corner>
    <summary>This survey spanned multiple years with graduate students
             collecting the data.  Lots of curious bears and moose,
             some interesting signal from the aurora.  Modeled data
             image large scale crustal features like the
             "fingers of god" that suggest large mineral deposits.
    </summary>
    <time_period>
        <end_date>1995-01-01</end_date>
        <start_date>2020-01-01</start_date>
    </time_period>
</survey>
```

4 Station

A station encompasses a single site where data are collected. If the location changes during a run, then a new station should be created and subsequently a new run under the new station. If the sensors, cables, data logger, battery are replaced during a run but the station remains stations, then this can be recorded in the `Run` metadata but does not require a new station entry.

Table 4: Attributes for Station Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
acquired_by.author Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of person or group that collected the station data and will be the point of contact if any questions arise about the data.	person name
acquired_by.comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: email	Email of the contact person who collected the data for the station.	expert digger
archive_id Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: alpha numeric	Station name that is archived a-z;A-Z;0-9. For IRIS this is a 5 character string.	MT201
channel_layout Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	How the dipoles and magnetic channels of the station were laid out. Options: [L | + | other]	+
channels_recorded Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	List of components recorded by the station. Should be a summary of all channels recorded dropped channels will be recorded in Run. Options: [Ex | Ey | Hx | Hy | Hz | T | Battery | other]	Ex, Ey, Hx, Hy, Hz, T
comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Any comments on the station that would be important for a user.	Pipeline near by.

Attributes for Station Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
data_type Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	All types of data recorded by the station. If multiple types input as a comma separated list. Options: [RMT | AMT | BBMT | LPMT | ULPMT | other]	BBMT
geographic_name Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Closest geographic name to the station, should be rather general. For further details about geographic names see https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/board-on-geographic-names	"Whitehorse, YK"
id Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Station name. This can be a longer name than the archive_id name and be a more explanatory name.	bear hallabaloo
location.declination.commer Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Any comments on declination that are important to an end user.	Estimated from WMM-2016
location.declination.model Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	Name of the geomagnetic reference model as {model_name}{-}{YYYY}. Model options: [EMAG2 | EMM | HDGM | IGRF | WMM]	WMM-2016
location.declination.value Required: True Units: degrees Type: float Style: number	Declination angle relative to geographic north positive clockwise estimated from location and geomagnetic model.	12.3
location.elevation Required: True Units: meters Type: float Style: number	Elevation of station location in datum specified at survey level.	123.4

Attributes for Station Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
location.latitude Required: True Units: degrees Type: float Style: number	Latitude of station location in datum specified at survey level.	23.134
location.longitude Required: True Units: degrees Type: float Style: number	Longitude of station location in datum specified at survey level.	14.23
orientation.layout_rotation Required: False Units: degrees Type: float Style: number	If the data were collected in a coordinate system that is neither geomagnetic or geographic but still orthogonal this angle will specify the rotation of the layout. For example if you layout your x component N30W and your y component N120W, then the rotation angle would be N30E.	0
orientation.method Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	Method for orienting station channels. Options: [compass | GPS | theodolite | other]	compass
orientation.option Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	How the data are archived with respect to channel orientation. This will help a user orient the data into the proper coordinate system. Options: ['channel-measurement specific', 'geographic orthogonal', 'geomagnetic orthogonal', 'site-specific orthogonal']	geomagnetic-orthogonal
provenance.comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Any comments on provenance of the data	From a graduated graduate student.
provenance.creation_time Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: date time	date and time the file was created	2020-02-08 T12:23:40.324600 +00:00

Attributes for Station Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
provenance.log Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	A history of any changes made to the data	2020-02-10 T14:24:45 +00:00 updated station metadata.
provenance.software.author Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Author of the software used to create the data files.	programmer 01
provenance.software.name Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of the software used to create data files	mtrules
provenance.software.version Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Version of the software used to create data files	12.01a
provenance.submitter.autho Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of the person submitting the data to the archive.	person name
provenance.submitter.email Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: email	Email of the person submitting the data to the archive.	mt.guru@em.org
provenance.submitter.organ Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of the organization that is submitting data to the archive.	mt gurus

Attributes for Station Category Continued

Metadata Key	Description	Example
time_period.end Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: time	end date and time of collection in UTC	2020-02-04 T16:23:45.453670 +00:00
time_period.start Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: time	start date and time of collection in UTC	2020-02-01 T09:23:45.453670 +00:00

4.1 Example Station JSON


```
{    "station": {
        "acquired_by": {
            "author": "mt",
            "comments": null},
        "archive_id": "MT012",
        "channel_layout": "L",
        "channels_recorded": "Ex, Ey, Hx, Hy",
        "comments": null,
        "data_type": "MT",
        "geographic_name": "Whitehorse",
        "id": "Curious Bears Hallabaloo",
        "location": {
            "latitude": 10.0,
            "longitude": -112.98,
            "elevation": 1234.0,
            "declination": {
                "value": 12.3,
                "comments": null,
                "model": "WMM"}},
        "orientation": {
            "method": "compass",
            "option": "geographic",
            "layout_rotation_angle": 0.0},
        "provenance": {
            "comments": null,
            "creation_time": "1980-01-01T00:00:00+00:00",
            "log": null,
            "software": {
                "author": "test",
                "version": "1.0a",
                "name": "name"},
            "submitter": {
                "author": "name",
                "organization": null,
                "email": "test@here.org"}},
        "time_period": {
            "end": "1980-01-01T00:00:00+00:00",
            "start": "1980-01-01T00:00:00+00:00"}
         }
}
```

5 Run

A run represents data collected at a single station with a single sampling rate. If the dipole length or other such station parameters are changed between runs, this would require adding a new run. If the station is relocated then a new station should be created. If a run has channels that drop out, the start and end period will be the minimum time and maximum time for all channels recorded. Note that run metadata should be derived from the data.

Table 5: Attributes for Run Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
acquired_by.author Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of the person or persons who acquired the run data. This can be different from the station.acquired_by and survey.acquired_by.	M.T. Nubee
acquired_by.comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: email	Email of the contact person who collected the run.	mt@nubee.org
channels_recorded_auxiliar Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: name list	List of auxiliary channels recorded	T, battery
channels_recorded_electric Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: name list	List of electric channels recorded	Ex, Ey
channels_recorded_magnet Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: name list	List of magnetic channels recorded	Hx, Hy, Hz
comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Any comments on the run that would be important for a user.	Badger attacked Ex.

Attributes for Run Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Any comments on the run that would be important for a user.	cows chewed cables at 9am local time.
data_logger.firmware.autho Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Author of the firmware that runs the data logger.	instrument engineer
data_logger.firmware.name Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Name of the firmware the data logger runs.	mtrules
data_logger.firmware.versio Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	Version of the firmware that runs the data logger.	12.01a
data_logger.id Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	instrument ID number can be serial number or a designated ID	mt01
data_logger.manufacturer Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	who manufactured the instrument	mt gurus
data_logger.model Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	model version of the instrument	falcon5

Attributes for Run Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
data_logger.power_source.c Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: name	any comment about the battery	this is a comment
data_logger.power_source.i Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: name	battery id	battery01
data_logger.power_source.t Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: name	battery type	pb-acid gel cell
data_logger.power_source.v Required: True Units: volts Type: float Style: number	end voltage	12.1
data_logger.power_source.v Required: True Units: volts Type: float Style: number	starting voltage	14.3
data_logger.timing_system Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	any comment on timing system	GPS locked with internal quartz clock
data_logger.timing_system Required: True Units: seconds Type: float Style: number	estimated drift of the timing system	0.001

Attributes for Run Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
data_logger.timing_system Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	type of timing system	GPS
data_logger.timing_system Required: True Units: seconds Type: float Style: number	estimated uncertainty of the timing system	0.0002
data_logger.type Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	instrument type	broadband 32-bit
data_type Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: controlled vocabulary	type of data recoreded for this run. Options: ['RMT', 'AMT', 'BBMT', 'LPMT', 'ULPMT', 'other']	BBMT
id Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: alpha numeric	run ID should be station name followed by an alphabet letter for the run	mt02b
metadata_by.author Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: free form	author name	person name
metadata_by.comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: email	email of the contact person	expert digger

Attributes for Run Category

Metadata Key	Description	Example
provenance.comments Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	any comments on provenance of the data	all good
provenance.log Required: False Units: None Type: string Style: free form	a history of changes made to the data	2020-02-10T14:24:45+00:00 updated metadata
sampling_rate Required: True Units: samples per second Type: float Style: number	rate of sampling renureded for this run	100
time_period.end Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: time	end date and time of collection in UTC	2020-02-04T16:23:45.453670+00:00
time_period.start Required: True Units: None Type: string Style: time	start date and time of collection in UTC	2020-02-01T09:23:45.453670+00:00

5.1 Example Run XML Element

```
<run>
    <acquired_by>
        <author>T. Lurric</author>
        <email>mt@mt.org</email>
    </acquired_by>
    <channels_recorded_auxiliary>[Temperature]</channels_recorded_auxiliary>
    <channels_recorded_electric>[Ex, Ey]</channels_recorded_electric>
    <channels_recorded_magnetic>[Hx, Hy, Hz]</channels_recorded_magnetic>
    <comments>None</comments>
    <data_logger>
        <id>instrument01</id>
        <manufacturer>MT r' US</manufacturer>
        <type>32 bit digital</type>
        <model>best</model>
        <timing_system>
            <comments>Internal clock locked every 10 seconds</comments>
            <drift type="float" units="seconds">0.00001</drift>
            <type>GPS</type>
            <uncertainty type="float" units="seconds">0.0001</uncertainty>
        </timing_system>
        <firmware>
            <author>T. Lurric</author>
            <version>12.34c</version>
            <name>MTGDC</name>
        </firmware>
        <power_source>
            <type>Pb-acid gel cell</type>
            <id>10</id>
            <voltage>
                <start type="float" units="volts">13.9</start>
                <end type="float" units="volts">12.1</end>
            </voltage>
            <comments>connector cable chewed by rats</comments>
        </power_source>
    </data_logger>
    <data_type>BBMT</data_type>
    <id>mt01a</id>
    <metadata_by>
         <author>student</author>
         <comments>lazy</comments>
    </metadata_by>
    <provenance>
        <comments>redone by grad student</comments>
        <log>2020-01-01T00:00:00+00:00 updated metadata</log>
    </provenance>
```

```
    <sampling_rate type="float" units="samples per second">256.0</sampling_rate>
    <time_period>
        <start>2020-01-01T00:00:00+00:00</start>
        <end>2020-02-01T00:00:00+00:00</end>
    </time_period>
</run>
```

6 Electric Channel

Electric channel refers to a dipole measurement of the electric field for a single station for a single run.

Table 6: Attributes for Electric category

Metadata Key	Description	Type	Required	Style
ac.end	ending AC value; if more than one measurement input as a list of number [1, ...]	float	False	number
ac.start	starting AC value; if more than one measurement input as a list of number [1, ...]	float	False	number
channel_number	channel number on the data logger	integer	True	number
comments	any comments about the channel	string	False	free form
component	name of the component measured. Options: [Ex | Ey | Ez | E#]	string	True	controlled vocabulary
contact_resistance.end	starting contact resistance; if more than one measurement input as a list of number [1, ...]	float	False	number list
contact_resistance.start	starting contact resistance; if more than one measurement input as a list of number [1, ...]	float	False	number list
data_quality.rating.author	author of who rated the data	string	False	free form
data_quality.rating.method	the method used to rate the data	string	False	free form
data_quality.rating.value	a rating from 1-5 where 1 is bad and 5 is good and 0 if unrated	integer	True	number
data_quality.warning	any warnings about the data that should be noted	string	False	free form
dc.end	ending DC value; if more than one measurement input as a list of number [1, ...]	float	False	number
dc.start	starting DC value; if more than one measurement input as a list of number [1, ...]	float	False	number
dipole_length	length of the dipole	float	True	number
filter.applied	boolean if filter has been applied or not. If more than one filter input as a comma separated list. Needs to be the same length as name or if only one entry is given it is assumed to apply to all filters listed.	boolean	True	list
filter.comments	any comments on filters	string	False	name
filter.name	name of filter applied or to be applies. If more than one filter input as a comma separated list	string	True	list
measurement_azimuth	azimuth of channel in measurement coordinates	float	True	number

Table 7: Attributes for Electric category continued

Metadata Key	Description	Type	Required	Style
negative.elevation	elevation of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
negative.id	instrument ID number can be serial number or a designated ID	string	False	free form
negative.latitude	latitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
negative.longitude	longitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
negative.manufacturer	who manufactured the instrument	string	False	free form
negative.model	model version of the instrument	string	False	free form
negative.type	instrument type	string	True	free form
positive.elevation	elevation of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
positive.id	instrument ID number can be serial number or a designated ID	string	False	free form
positive.latitude	latitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
positive.longitude	longitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
positive.manufacturer	who manufactured the instrument	string	False	free form
positive.model	model version of the instrument	string	False	free form
positive.type	instrument type	string	True	free form
sample_rate	sample rate	float	True	number
time_period.end	end date and time of collection in UTC	string	True	date time
time_period.start	start date and time of collection in UTC	string	True	date time
type	data type for the channel [electric]	string	True	controlled vocabulary
units	units of the data [counts | V]	string	True	controlled vocabulary

6.1 Example Electric Channel JSON


```
{
 "electric": {
    "ac.end": 10.2,
    "ac.start": 12.1,
    "channel_number": 2,
    "comments": null,
    "component": "EX",
    "contact_resistance.end": 1.2,
    "contact_resistance.start": 1.1,
    "data_quality.rating.author": "mt",
    "data_quality.rating.method": "ml",
    "data_quality.rating.value": 4,
    "data_quality.warning": null,
    "dc.end": 1.0,
    "dc.start": 2.0,
    "dipole_length": 100.0,
    "filter.applied": [False],
    "filter.comments": null,
    "filter.name": [ "counts2mv", "lowpass"],
    "measurement_azimuth": 90.0,
    "negative.elevation": 100.0,
    "negative.id": "a",
    "negative.latitude": 12.12,
    "negative.longitude": -111.12,
    "negative.manufacturer": "test",
    "negative.model": "fats",
    "negative.type": "pb-pbcl",
    "positive.elevation": 101.0,
    "positive.id": "b",
    "positive.latitude": 12.123,
    "positive.longitude": -111.14,
    "positive.manufacturer": "test",
    "positive.model": "fats",
    "positive.type": "ag-agcl",
    "sample_rate": 256.0,
    "time_period.end": "1980-01-01T00:00:00+00:00",
    "time_period.start": "2020-01-01T00:00:00+00:00",
    "type": "electric",
    "units": "counts"
  }
}
```

7 Magnetic Channel

A magnetic channel is a recording of one component of the magnetic field at a single station for a single run.

7.1 Example Magnetic Channel JSON


```
{
    "magnetic": {
        "comments": null,
        "component": "Hz",
        "data_logger": {
            "channel_number": 2
        },
        "data_quality": {
            "warning": "periodic pipeline",
            "rating": {
                "author": "M. Tee",
                "method": "Machine Learning",
                "value": 3
            }
        },
        "filter": {
            "name": ["counts2nT", "lowpass_mag"],
            "applied": [true, false],
            "comments": null
        },
        "h_field_max": {
            "start": 40000.,
            "end": 420000.
        },
        "h_field_min": {
            "start": 38000.,
            "end": 39500.
        },
        "location": {
            "latitude": 25.89,
            "longitude": -110.98,
            "elevation": 1234.5
        },
        "measurement_azimuth": 0.0,
        "sample_rate": 64.0,
        "sensor": {
            "id": 'spud',
            "manufacturer": "F. McAraday",
            "type": "tri-axial fluxgate",
            "model": "top hat"
        },
        "time_period": {
            "end": "2010-01-01T00:00:00+00:00",
            "start": "2020-01-01T00:00:00+00:00"
        },
```

```
        "type": "magnetic",
        "units": "nT"
    }
}
```

8 Filters

`Filters` is a table that holds information on any filters that need to be applied to get physical units, and filters that were applied to the data to analyze the signal. This includes calibrations, notch filters, conversion of counts to units, etc. The actual filter will be an array of numbers contained within an array named `name` and formatted according to `type`. The preferred format for a filter is a look-up table which internally can be converted to other formats.

It is important to note that filters will be identified by name and must be consistent throughout the file. Names should be descriptive and self evident. Examples:

- `coil_2284` $\longrightarrow$ induction coil number 2284
- `counts2mv` $\longrightarrow$ conversion from counts to mV
- `e_gain` $\longrightarrow$ electric field gain
- `datalogger_024` $\longrightarrow$ data logger number 24 response
- `notch_60hz` $\longrightarrow$ notch filter for 60 Hz and harmonics
- `lowpass_10hz` $\longrightarrow$ low pass filter below 10 Hz

In each channel there are keys to identify filters that can or have been applied to the data to get an appropriate signal. This can be a list of filter names or a single filter name. An `applied` key also exists for the user to input whether that filter has been applied. Can be a single Boolean `True` if all filters have been applied, `False` if none of the filters have been applied. Or can be a list the same length and the filter list identifying if the filter has been applied. `name: "[counts2mv, notch_60hz, e_gain]"` and `applied: "[True, False, True]"`.

8.1 Example Filter JSON

```
{
    "filter":{
        "type": "look up",
         "name": "counts2mv",
         "units_in": "counts",
         "units_out": "mV",
         "calibration_date": "2015-07-01",
        "comments": "Accurate to 0.001 mV"
    }
}
```

9 Auxiliary Channels

Auxiliary channels include state of health channels, temperature, etc.

9.1 Example Auxiliary JSON

```
<auxiliary>
    <comments>great</comments>
    <component>Temperature</component>
    <data_logger>
        <channel_number type="integer">1</channel_number>
    </data_logger>
    <data_quality>
        <warning>None</warning>
        <rating>
            <author>mt</author>
            <method>ml</method>
            <value type="integer">4</value>
        </rating>
    </data_quality>
    <filter>
        <name>
            <i>lowpass</i>
            <i>counts2mv</i>
        </name>
        <applied type="boolean">
            <i type="boolean">True</i>
        </applied>
        <comments>test</comments>
    </filter>
    <location>
        <latitude type="float" units="degrees">12.324</latitude>
        <longitude type="float" units="degrees">-112.03</longitude>
        <elevation type="float" units="degrees">1234.0</elevation>
    </location>
    <measurement_azimuth type="float" units="degrees">0.0</measurement_azimuth>
    <sample_rate type="float" units="samples per second">8.0</sample_rate>
    <time_period>
        <end>2020-01-01T00:00:00+00:00</end>
        <start>2020-01-04T00:00:00+00:00</start>
    </time_period>
    <type>auxiliary</type>
    <units>celsius</units>
</auxiliary>
```

A Option Definitions

Table 8: Attributes for Magnetic category

Metadata Key	Description	Type	Required	Style
channel_number	channel number on the data logger	integer	True	number
comments	any comments about the channel	string	False	free form
component	name of the magnetic component measured. Options: [Hx | Hy | Hz | H#]	string	True	controlled vocabulary
data_quality.rating.author	author of who rated the data	string	False	free form
data_quality.rating.method	the method used to rate the data	string	False	free form
data_quality.rating.value	a rating from 1-5 where 1 is bad and 5 is good and 0 if unrated	integer	True	number
data_quality.warning	any warnings about the data that should be noted	string	False	free form
filter.applied	boolean if filter has been applied or not. If more than one filter input as a comma separated list. Needs to be the same length as name or if only one entry is given it is assumed to apply to all filters listed.	boolean	True	list
filter.comments	any comments on filters	string	False	name
filter.name	name of filter applied or to be applies. If more than one filter input as a comma separated list	string	True	list
h_field_max.end	maximum magnetic field strength at end	float	False	number
h_field_max.start	maximum magnetic field strength at beginning	float	False	number
h_field_min.end	minimum magnetic field strength at end	float	False	number
h_field_min.start	minimum magnetic field strength at beginning	float	False	number
location.elevation	elevation of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
location.latitude	latitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
location.longitude	longitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
measurement_azimuth	azimuth of channel in measurement coordinates	float	True	number
sample_rate	sample rate	float	True	number
sensor.id	instrument ID number can be serial number or a designated ID	string	True	free form
sensor.manufacturer	who manufactured the instrument	string	True	free form
sensor.model	model version of the instrument	string	False	free form
sensor.type	instrument type	string	True	free form
time_period.end	end date and time of collection in UTC	string	True	date time
time_period.start	start date and time of collection in UTC	string	True	date time
type	data type for the channel	string	True	free form
units	units of the data. Options: [counts |	string	True	controlled

Table 9: Attributes for Filters

Metadata Key	Description	Type	Required	Style
type	type of filter [look up | poles-zeros | converter | FIR | ...]	string	True	controlled vocabulary
name	unique name for the filter such that it is easy to query	string	True	alpha numeric
units_in	units of data going in [counts | mV/km | ...]	string	True	free form
units_out	units of data coming out [counts | mV/km | ...]	string	True	free form
calibration_date	date of calibration	string	True	date time
comments	any comments on the filtering	string	False	free form

Table 10: Attributes for Auxiliary category

Metadata Key	Description	Type	Required	Style
channel_number	channel number on the data logger	integer	True	number
comments	any comments about the channel	string	False	free form
component	name of the component measured. Options [Temperature | batter_voltage | state_of_health | ...]	string	True	controlled vocabulary
data_quality.rating.author	author of who rated the data	string	False	free form
data_quality.rating.method	the method used to rate the data	string	False	free form
data_quality.rating.value	a rating from 1-5 where 1 is bad and 5 is good and 0 if unrated	integer	True	number
data_quality.warning	any warnings about the data that should be noted	string	False	free form
filter.applied	boolean if filter has been applied or not. If more than one filter input as a comma separated list. Needs to be the same length as name or if only one entry is given it is assumed to apply to all filters listed.	boolean	True	list
filter.comments	any comments on filters	string	False	name
filter.name	name of filter applied or to be applies. If more than one filter input as a comma separated list	string	True	list
location.elevation	elevation of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
location.latitude	latitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
location.longitude	longitude of location in datum specified at survey level	float	False	number
measurement_azimuth	azimuth of channel in measurement coordinates	float	True	number
sample_rate	sample rate	float	True	number
time_period.end	end date and time of collection in UTC	string	True	date time
time_period.start	start date and time of collection in UTC	string	True	date time
type	data type for the channel	string	True	free form
units	units of the data options are related to the data type [counts | ...]	string	True	controlled vocabulary

Table 11: Generalized electromagnetic period bands. Some overlap, use the closest definition.

Data Type	**Definition**	**Period Range [s]**
RMT	radio magnetotellurics	10^{-6} – 10^{-4}
AMT	audio magnetotellurics	10^{-4} – 10^{0}
BBMT	broadband magnetotellurics	10^{-1} – 10^{3}
LPMT	long period magnetotellurics	10^{2} – 10^{5}
ULPMT	ultra long period magnetotellurics	10^{5} – 10^{7}

Table 12: These are the common channel components. More can be added.

Channel Type	**Definition**
E	electric field measurement
H	magnetic field measurement
T	temperature
Battery	battery
SOH	state-of-health channel

Table 13: Channel Direction. The convention for many MT setups follows the right-hand-rule with X in the northern direction, Y in the eastern direction, and Z positive down. If the setup has multiple channels in the same direction they can be labeled with a number. For instance if you measure multiple electric fields Ex01, Ey01, Ex02, Ey02.

Direction	**Definition**
x	north direction
y	east direction
z	vertical direction
# {0–9}	variable directions