TRICYCLE Users Manual

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Version 0.2.1

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2. What is TRICYCLE?

TRICYCLE is a universal dendrochronology file format converter. It currently has support for reading and writing 22 different file formats:

Table 2.1.: Formats supported by TRiCYCLE

Format	Read support	Write support
Belfast Apple	✓	√
Belfast Archive	\checkmark	
Besançon	\checkmark	\checkmark
CATRAS	\checkmark	\checkmark
Comma Separated Values	\checkmark	\checkmark
Corina Legacy	\checkmark	\checkmark
DendroDB	\checkmark	
Heidelberg	\checkmark	\checkmark
Microsoft Excel 97/XP/2000	O √	\checkmark
Microsoft Excel 2007	\checkmark	\checkmark
Nottingham	\checkmark	\checkmark
ODF Spreadsheet	\checkmark	\checkmark
Oxford	\checkmark	\checkmark
PAST4	\checkmark	\checkmark
Sheffield	\checkmark	\checkmark
Topham	\checkmark	\checkmark
TRiDaS	\checkmark	\checkmark
TRIMS	\checkmark	\checkmark
Tucson	\checkmark	\checkmark
Tucson Compact	\checkmark	\checkmark
VFormat	\checkmark	\checkmark
WinDENDRO	\checkmark	

TRICYCLE extracts both data and any metadata present in files and converts them to the Tree-Ring Data Standard (TRiDaS) data model. As TRiDaS is capable of representing the full range of dendro data and metadata, it is then possible to write out the file to any one of the supported formats. Key features of TRICYCLE are:

- Seamless support for units where possible
- Interpretation of all metadata
- Handling of different character sets and line feeds from different operating systems
- Comprehensive warning and exception system which provides detailed feedback when errors are detected in files

For a complete discussion of TRiCYCLE and its underlying libraries please see (Brewer et al n review).	.,

3. Installation

TRICYCLE is a Java application and so can be installed on any modern operating system. To make installation more familiar though we have packaged it up into native installers for Windows, Mac OSX and Linux. Download the relevant package for your operating system from the SourceForge http://tridas.sf.net website.

Windows - Run the setup program and follow the steps. The program will be installed to your hard disk and shortcuts added to your start menu. If you do not have Java installed on your system or you do not have the required version the installer will provide you with assistance to do so.

Mac OSX - Open the .dmg file in Finder. Drag the TRiCYCLE.app file into your Applications folder, or wherever you'd like it installed. MacOSX comes pre-installed with Java so there is no need to install it separately.

Linux - An Ubuntu deb package is provided for TRiCYCLE. Install this package with your standard package manager (e.g. sudo dpkg –install TRiCYCLE_X.X.deb). It includes information on the required dependencies therefore it should install everything you need if you are running Ubuntu. On other distributions you may find that the dependencies do not install automatically and the TRiCYCLE installation fails. If this is the case you will have to install sun-java6-jre first manually.

4. How to use TRICYCLE

The first step is to specify the format of your input file(s). Choose your input file format from the pull down list on the File List page. If you are uncertain what format your file is in, you can use Identify file format option in the help menu. Due to the fact that some formats are very similar, Corina may suggest the file is one of several formats. If this is the case you will need to either check the file format descriptions in the appendices, or try each format in turn.

The next stage is to specify the file(s) that you would like to convert. This can be done in a variety of ways:

- Click the browse button
- Use the File > Open menu
- Drag files onto the dialog box from your file manager (e.g. Finder on MacOSX, My Computer on Windows or Nautilus, Dolphin, Konqueror etc on Linux).

Once you have your list of files prepared you can then go to the Convert tab.

On the Convert page, the next thing you need to do is select the desired output format from the drop down list. Next, press the convert button and after a short delay your files should appear in the list below. At the bottom of the window, you'll see a summary showing how many files were processed, how many of the conversions failed and how many were converted successfully but with warnings.

The results of the conversion are shown in a tree view on the convert tab. Files that failed to convert are highlighted by a red cross along with a message explaining what went wrong. Each file that converted successfully and with no warnings is shown with a green tick icon below which are shown the output file or files. Depending on the input and output formats chosen, a input file may be converted into one or more output files as some formats can store just one series while others can store multiple series.

If there were warnings produced during the conversion process, then the file will be marked with a orange exclamation icon. Warnings can be associated with either the process of reading the input file, or writing the output file. They can also be related to a single series within the file or the input file as a whole. The warning messages are displayed to illustrate the context of the warning. Longer warnings will scroll of the edge of the window, but if you hover your mouse over the warning a tool-tip will show the entire message.



Figure 4.1.: Screen shot showing the conversion of three TRiDaS files into Sheffield format. The second and third files both include warnings that the Sheffield format is unable to fully represent all the data in the input files.

If you would like to preview the result of the conversion process you can double click on the output files and they will be displayed in a text viewer. This option is not, however, available for binary formats such as CATRAS and Excel.

Once you are happy with the results of the conversion you can save the files permanently to disk by pressing the save button. It will offer you the option of specifying which folder to save the files to.

5. Options

The options panel is available from the file menu. It is split into two sections: Reader config and Writer config.

5.1. Character sets

The character set can be set for both the file being read and the file being written. The character set is the system for pairing computer character codes with the character glyphs that we read. The widely used standard was originally ASCII, but this does not include diacritic characters, and characters specific to certain languages. There have since been many character encodings proposed (e.g ISO 8859-1 for Western Europe and ISO 8859-7 for Greece) as well as some that are specific to Windows and Mac operating systems (e.g. Windows-1252 and MacRoman). The character set that is becoming most widely used is Unicode UTF-8. This is capable of representing all 107,000+ distinct characters while remaining backwards compatible with ASCII for the 128 characters that it is able to represent.

If an incorrect character encoding is used to interpret a file, normally the majority of characters will display correctly (where the character sets share the same encodings) but more unusual characters will be displayed incorrectly - typically square boxes or question marks.

TRICYCLE can using the NIO package to attempt to automatically detect which encoding a file is in. Unfortunately, there is no full-proof way to do this, so by default, this feature is turned off. If you are having problems with character encodings you may like to choose 'Automatic' in the charset box if you have no idea what character encoding your file is in.

The character encoding is set to the default for the operating system you are running. For instance on MacOSX this will be MacRoman and for Windows it will be Windows-1250. If you know your input file is in a different encoding you should set it in the input charset box. If your output file needs to be read on an operating system other than the one you are currently running, then you may like to override the writer charset. Please note that for certain writers, the character set used is part of the file specification (e.g. TRiDaS must be UTF-8). In this case your choice will be ignored.

The final complication with regards character sets is the line feed character(s). For historical reasons different operating systems use different characters to represent a new line.

Depending on the software that is used to read a file, this can cause problems. TRICYCLE itself will automatically adapt to files with any type of line feed characters so reading files in TRICYCLE will never be a problem. When writing out files, TRICYCLE will use the default line feed for the operating system you are running, unless you choose a platform specific character set. For instance if you run TRICYCLE on Windows and choose a MacRoman writing charset, TRICYCLE will use Mac style line feeds.

5.2. Metadata editor

TRICYCLE works by reading in a data file and translating it into the TRiDaS data model. TRiDaS has a rich array of fields to represent all manner of dendro data and metadata. Although most of these are optional, the TRiDaS specification requires that a handful of these are always filled in. Unfortunately many of the legacy data formats do not contain information for these mandatory fields, therefore TRICYCLE must fill these with default values. You will most commonly see these defaults as 'Unnamed object' etc in your output file. The metadata editor enables you to override these default values.

Clicking on the reader metadata editor button in the options window will give a table of all the metadata fields that will be set automatically by TRiCYCLE along with their current values. You can change most of these with the exception of those that are required to be a controlled vocabulary. These will require a more complicated interface which we haven't had time to implement yet. The third column in the editor is a tick box to specify whether the value is overriding or not. If ticked, the value specified in this editor will be used regardless of whether a value can be extracted by TRiCYCLE from the input data files.

An identical editor is available for the writer. These are the default values used by the writer code for your chosen output format. For instance, TRiDaS does not require that a start year field be set (as in the case of relatively dated series), whereas some output formats do require such a field. If an input file does not contain start year information then some writers need to know which default value for start year to use. Like for the input metadata editor, you can set fields to 'overriding' which means they will be used regardless of whether this information is available in the input dataset.

5.3. Naming convention

Some file formats can contain just one data series while others can contain many. When converting from a multi-series format to a single series format this means that one input file is converted to multiple output files. The naming convention is used to determine how to name the output files. The naming convention relates to the filename itself and not the file extension. The file extension is specific to the output format chosen (e.g. Heidelberg files are .fh and TRiDaS files are .xml).

Numerical - This is the default naming convention. It uses the name of the input data file and appends an incrementing number if more than one output file is produced.

UUID - This gives all output files a random named based on Universally Unique Identifiers (UUIDs). This is a 36 character hexadecimal code which due to the astronomically large number of possible combinations is guaranteed to be universally unique. A typical filename will look like: 550e8400-e29b-41d4-a716-446655440000.

Hierarchical - This uses the hierarchical structure of the TRiDaS data model to provide a meaningful name for the output file. It joins together the title of each entity in the file beginning with the project name through to the series name. For files that contain multiple series, the name will contain details of all the entities shared by all the series in the file. For example, if a file contains several series from the same sample, then the file name will be projectTitle-objectTitle-elementTitle-sampleTitle. If the file contains several series from different samples of the same object, then the file would be projectTitle- objectTitle. If multiple output files end up with the same name then like the numerical convention described above, the files will have an incremental number appended to the end. Unfortunately, most input data files do not contain rich name information so files end up being called unnamedProject-unnamedObject-unnamedElement etc. This convention is therefore more appropriate when converting from TRiDaS to other formats.

5.4. Privacy options

On first launch, TRiCYCLE will ask permission to collect anonymous usage data. This information will help us focus future development efforts, but if you prefer not to submit this data, you can decline. You can change your mind at any time by checking or unchecking the tick box in the options dialog.

By default TRiCYCLE also periodically checks for the availability of updates on the tridas.org website. If you would prefer to check manually you can turn this features and either use the 'Check for updates' entry in the Help menu, or visit the TRiDaS website with your normal web browser.

6. Help and more information

The best place to start is through the TRiDaS website (http://www.tridas.org) and the Dendro Data Standards forum. The forum is a email list for the discussion of TRiDaS and other dendro data standards issues. It is open for all to join by emailing Peter Brewer (p.brewer@cornell.edu).

TRICYCLE is an open source product therefore we are very pleased to welcome anyone that would like to assist in its development. This obviously includes programmers, but also people willing to help with documentation and translations too. To find out more information please contact Peter Brewer (p.brewer@cornell.edu).

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Appendix - File format descriptions

A. Belfast Apple

Format name
Other name(s)
Type
Belfast Apple
None known
Text file

Extension(s) Various (typically txt and dat)

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation No original software is known to exist so TRICYCLE

is proposed as the reference implementation

Data / metadata Data only with comment

Calendar type n/a
Absolute dating support No
Undated series support Yes
Relative dating support No
Multi series support No

Original designer John Pilcher

A.1. Description

Belfast Apple is a simple text file format (see also Belfast Archive) originating from the Queens University Belfast lab and originally designed for use on an Apple II computer. This format is not known to be actively used but a large amount of data (especially at Belfast) is archived in this format.

- Line 1 name of the site or object the data refers to.
- Line 2 identifier for the sample the data refers to.
- Line 3 number of data values in the file
- Lines 4+ line feed delimited data values as integers in 1/100th mm
- Final line contains a comment typically starting with 'COMMENT -'

A.2. Example file

```
EXAMPLE SITE
A1805
    106
    188
    165
184
    112
    103
111
10
    239
11
    226
    132
13
    143
    146
14
    140
    100
16
    176
17
    139
18
    124
19
    115
21
    78
    80
22
    156
    75
110
24
25
    80
    130
27
    83
    157
29
    99
30
    115
    102
32
    110
33
    108
    87
35
    135
    107
96
37
38
    70
    128
119
40
41
    86
43
    101
    106
45
    129
    88
46
    101
    151
48
    106
    97
    110
51
    97
    91
93
53
    100
    124
56
    99
57
    134
    125
105
59
    96
61
   107
142
62
```

64 | 100 65 | COMMENT - PB 15-NOV-99

B. Belfast Archive

Format name
Other name(s)
Type
Belfast Archive
None known
Text file

Extension(s) Various (typically arx, txt and dat)

Read/write support Read only

Reference implementation No original software is known to exist so TRiCYCLE

is proposed as the reference implementation

Data / metadata Data with limited metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support No
Relative dating support No
Multi series support Yes

Original designer Martin Munro

B.1. Description

Belfast Archive is a simple text file format based on the original Belfast Apple format at the Queens University Belfast lab. It shares the same features as Belfast Apple but with the addition of a number of metadata fields at the end of the file.

- Line 1 name of the site or object the data refers to.
- Line 2 identifier for the sample the data refers to.
- Line 3 number of data values in the file
- Lines 4+ line feed delimited data values as integers in 1/100th mm
- The lines "[[ARCHIVE]]" and "[[END OF TEXT]]" denote the start and finish of the metadata section

The metadata section contains the following lines:

- Line 1 start year as an integer.
- Line 2 unknown
- Line 3 Double representing the resolution of data values e.g. .1=1/10ths mm, .01=1/100th mm, .001= microns etc
- Line 4 unknown
- Line 5 unknown
- Line 6 unknown

- Line 7 title of the data series
- Line 8 unknown
- Line 9 unknown

B.2. Example file

```
EXAMPLE SITE
   1
176
3
   342
   338
    334
    409
    362
   308
360
9
10
    264
   325
318
12
13
14
    51
   48
47
15
    60
17
    49
18
    48
    "[[ARCHIVE]]"
20
   1277
21
    9177
22
    .01
23
    1.035795
   0.212144
BOB 25/03/95
25
26
    EXAMPLE SITE #01
   Pith F Sap 32
28
29
    "[[ END OF TEXT ]]"
```

C. Besançon

Format name
Other name(s)

Type
Extension(s)

Besançon
SYLPHE
Text file
txt

Extension(s) txt
Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation

Data / metadata Data and some structured metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support Yes
Relative dating support No
Multi series support Yes

Original designer Georges Lambert

C.1. Description

The Besançon format is most commonly used in a number of French laboratories. The format allows for multiple series in the same file. Each series (or element block in Lambert's notation) is made up of a header line, optional metadata and a data block each of which are delimited by a line feed.

The header line begins with a dot character, then one or more spaces, then an element name (without spaces) followed by a space and any number of ignored characters.

The metadata fields are space or line feed delimited. Each field is recorded using a key of three letters. The format allows for the full spelling out of the field if preferred, but it is the first three letters that are read by software so LON is the same as LONGEUR. Some fields are 'unimodal' in that their presence is all that is required e.g. CAM means that cambium was observed. Other fields are 'bimodal' which means they require a value to be associated with them. In this case the field key is followed by a space and then an integer or string value e.g. POS 1950. The accepted metadata fields are as follows:

LON Number of data values

POS The temporary first ring date given relatively to a group

ORI The year for the first ring

TER The year for the last ring. Should be the same as ORI + LON

MOE Pith present

CAM Cambium present

AUB Number of the first sapwood ring

All other information in the metadata block should be ignored. This feature is often used to allow the inclusion of multi-line comments.

The data block begins with the marker line VAL (like metadata keys, subsequent characters are ignored so sometimes the rest of this line is used for comments). Subsequent lines contain integer values delimited by a space or line feed. Missing rings are marked with a comma character and the end of the data is marked with a semicolon.

C.2. Additional information

- There is nothing in the specification to say what precision the data values should be in.
 Following conversations with users it appears that Besançon files are mostly 1/100th mm but this is not always the case. Some files include a Précision field, but this is not documented or standardised.
- There are a number of additional fields that are commonly used but which do not appear in the format specification. These are also supported by the DendroFileIOLib ESP Species

ECO Bark present

C.3. Example file

```
. abc22/43
    Lon 129
    Esp quercus sp Nat lambris
    Precision 1/100
    Moelle non presente
    Aub 0
   valeurs
     149 119 156 146 170 187 197
                                       146 191 177
     137
          108
               160
                    108
                        120
                             177
                                  136
                                       174
                                            190
                                                 109
     189
          176
               170
                    162
                        114
                             126
                                  133
                                       152
                                            146
                                                 127
10
     119 131
               146
                    133
                        147
                              82
                                   57
                                        77
                                             77
11
          49
               97
                    76
                         88
                              82
                                   72
                                        83
                                             81
      96
                                                  90
12
          87
                    104
                        111
      85
               78
                             132
                                  141
                                       105
                                            104
                                                 120
     111 121 115
                    89
                         94
                              88
                                   90
                                       115
                                                 106
```

```
15 | 107 120 80 92 98 84 97 82 100 86

16 99 65 85 113 90 82 57 57 99 94

17 95 105 120 110 93 96 131 133 123 122

18 113 119 95 127 88 104 , , , ,

19 , , , , , , , , , , ,
```

D. CATRAS

Format name CATRAS
Other name(s) None known
Type Binary
Extension(s) cat

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation CATRAS

Data / metadata Data and some structured metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
No
Multi series support
No

Original designer Roland Aniol

D.1. Background

The CATRAS format (Aniol, 1983) is the only known binary dendro data format. As such it can't be read by a simple text editor, and can't be imported by spreadsheet or database programs. The format was designed by Roland Aniol for use in his program of the same name. The binary nature of the format means the files are typically much smaller than text files containing similar data. The closed nature of the format originally meant that users were tied to the application. The fact that users can't manually edit the file means that the validity of files is not a problem like it is with most other dendro formats.

The format was originally decoded in the early 1990's and permission was granted by Aniol for a converter to be included in Henri Grissino-Mayer's CONVERT5 application. Subsequently others have independently released application and code that can read CATRAS files to a greater or lesser extent.

Following its original release in 1983, CATRAS was updated several times, the most recent version (v4.42) was released in 2010. The code in DendroFileIOLib is based in part on Matlab, Fortran and C code of Ronald Visser, Henri Grissino-Mayer and Ian Tyers.

D.2. Reading byte code

Reading byte code is more complicated than reading text files. Each byte is 8-bits and therefore can represent up to 256 values. Depending on the type of information each byte contains, the bytes are interpreted in one of four ways:

D.2.1. Strings

Some of the bytes in CATRAS files contain character information. In this case each byte represents a letter. In java an array of bytes can be directly decoded into a string.

D.2.2. Integers

As a byte can only represent 256 values, whenever an integer is required it is stored as a byte pair. Each byte pair consists of a least significant byte (LSB) and a most significant byte (MSB). The order that they appear in files typically varies between platforms and is known as 'endianness'. As CATRAS solely runs on Microsoft (x86) processors we can safely assume that all CATRAS files will be using little-endian (i.e. LSB MSB). The counting in a byte pair therefore works as follows:

Value	LSB	MSB
1	1	0
2	2	0
3	3	0
 256		
257	1	1
258	2	1

A byte pair can therefore store 256x256=65536 values (more than enough for most number fields).

D.2.3. Real numbers

Statistical values—such as arithmetic mean, standard deviation, first-order autocorrelation, and mean sensitivity—are given for all the ring widths and optionally for the ring widths in a restricted part of the series. The real numbers are given in standard format defined by the IEEE 754 Standard for Floating-Point Arithmetic.

D.2.4. Categories

Categories are typically recorded as single bytes as most categories have just a few possible values. They can therefore be conceptualized as being integers where 0=first option, 1=second option etc. The exception to this is for species because there are more than 256 species. In this case, a byte pair is used in exactly the same way as described for integers above. The only problem for species is that the codes are unique to each laboratory and refer to values enumerated in a separate '.wnm' file. Without this dictionary the species code is of little use.

D.2.5. Dates

The date of the creation of the series and the date of the last amendment to the series are stored as three single bytes each, one for day, one for month, and one for year. The year is stored with an offset of 1900. Therefore numbers from 1 to 100 belong to the 20th century (calendar year 1901 to 2000) and numbers from 101 to 200 belong to the 21th century (calendar year 2001 to 2100).

D.3. Metadata

The first 128 bytes contain the file header information and the remainder of the file contains the ring-width data and sample depth data (if series is a chronology). If a series is only partly suitable for further analysis then this indicated in bytes 49–52. The quality code at position 58 is an overall rating for the series. This helps to exclude poor series from analyses other than dating.

D.4. Data

The remaining bytes in the file contain the actual data values stored as integer byte pairs. All data are stored in multiples of 128 bytes. If the number of data bytes given in the header at position 45–46 is not a multiple of 128 the file is padded with extra bytes accordingly. Padded bytes should be ignored.

Bytes	Data type	Field	Description
1–32	С	Series name	
33–40	Č	Series code.	Must be upper case and match file name.
41–44	C	File extension	
45–46	1	Series length	
47–48	1	Sapwood length	
49–50	1	First valid ring	Used if a portion of the series is unreliable
51–52	1	Last valid ring	Used if a portion of the series is unreliable
53	В	Scope	1=pith; 2=waldkante; 3=pith to waldkante; 4=bark; 5=pith to bark
54	В	State of last ring	0=last ring complete; 1=last ring only early wood
55–56	1	First ring	Calendar year of first ring: 0=not dated; <0=B.C.; >0=A.D.
57	В		Number of valid characters in series name
58	В	Quality code	0=not known; 1=very good 5=uncertain
59-60	1	Species code	Requires an associated catras.wnm file
61–63	D	Creation date	DMY, Y offset 1900
64–66	D	Last updated	DMY, Y offset 1900
67	В	Real number format	normally 1=IEEE
68	В	Type of series	0=ring widths; 1=early wood widths; 2=late wood widths
69–81			Reserved
82	С	Special sources	A=averaged; D=digitized; E=extern;
			H=manual input
83	В	Protection	0=no protection; 1=not to be deleted; 2=not to be amended
84	В	File type	0=raw; 1=tree curve; 2=chronology
85–88	С	Creator	Initials of creator
Statistics	for total seri	es	
89–92	R		Arithmetic mean
93–95	R		Standard deviation
96–100	R		First-order autocorrelation
101-104	R		Mean sensitivity
105-106	I		Number of rings for mean
107–108	I		Number of rings for autocorrelation
Statistics	for restricted	d part of series	
109-112	R	•	Arithmetic mean
113–116	R		Standard deviation
117–120	R		First-order autocorrelation
121–124	R		Mean sensitivity
125–126	1		Number of rings for mean
127–128	1		Number of rings for autocorrelation

Table D.1.: Summary of the metadata portion of CATRAS files. Data types are: strings (C); integers (I); real numbers (R); binary categories (B); and dates (D). Bytes 89–128 contain descriptive statistics for the file, bytes 89–108 concerning the entire series, and bytes 109–128 a subset of the series where some poor quality data (defined in bytes 49–52) have been excluded.

D.4.1. Ring widths

Ring widths are stored in hundredths of a millimetre in the same order as the tree had been grown. When working with archaeological or geological wood it might occur that a particular ring is damaged and therefore its width cannot be determined precisely. To indicate that fact and to exclude this particular ring from further calculations its measured width is stored negative. In the CATRAS program a negative ring width will be taken into account neither in the calculation of tree curves and chronologies nor in the statistics or in comparisons with other series.

D.4.2. Chronologies

Chronology files are indicated at position 84 in the file header and contain additional data in respect to raw data files. After the block of ring width data three additional data blocks follow. Firstly the number of ring widths averaged at a particular position follows (the sample depth). Then the number of series with the same trend between subsequent ring widths at a particular position follows. Then the number of series with the opposite trend between subsequent ring widths at a particular position follows. All data blocks are stored in multiples of 128 bytes. If the number of data bytes given in the header at position 45-46 is not a multiple of 128 each block is padded with extra bytes accordingly. Padded bytes should be ignored.

E. Comma Separated Values

Format name Comma Separated Values

Other name(s) CSV Type Text file

Extension(s) Various (typically txt or csv)

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation n/a
Data / metadata Data only
Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Multi series support
Original designer

Yes
No
No
No

E.1. Description

Comma separated values format is a simple text format for representing tabular data. It is not specific to dendrochronology data and is supported by most spreadsheet and database applications. Data is delimited into columns using a comma character to indicate cell boundaries.

Support for CSV files in TRiCYCLE is limited to a particular layout of data. The expected layout is the same as for Excel and ODF spreadsheet files:

- Row 1 Header names for each column
- Column A Year values
- Column B+ One column for each series containing data values. Cells are left empty if
 no data is available for a series because it does not extend to a particular year. Data
 must be continuous for each series, so missing/unmeasured rings should be included
 as zero.

E.2. Example file

```
Year, MySample1, MySample2
500,0.33,
501,0.26,0.26
4 502,0.2,0.2
5 503,0.14,0.14
6 504,0.08,0.08
7 505,0.02,0.02
8 506,0.2,0.2
9 507,0.14,0.14
10 508,0.08,0.08
11 509,0.2,
12 510,0.33,
13 511,0.08,
14 512,0.33,
15 513,0.22,
```

F. Corina Legacy

Format name Corina Legacy

Other name(s) Corina
Type Text file

Extension(s) Various including raw, rec, ind, cln, sum)

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation Corina

Data / metadata Data and some structured metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support No
Relative dating support Yes
Multi series support No

Original designer Robert 'Mecki' Pohl

F.1. Description

The Corina Legacy format is the file format used by the Corina software prior to version 2, when it transferred to using TRiDaS. The format was originally designed for use with the MS-DOS version of Corina but was also used as the native file format in the later Java versions (up to and including v1.1).

A Corina file contains yearly data (ring-width and number of samples for that year), some fixed metadata, and optionally weiserjahre data and a listing of element samples (for summed samples).

The title comes first, on a line by itself, followed by a blank line. The title is repeated later, so this is only to make it easier for people or external programs to read the title.

The *metadata section* comes next. The syntax is ;TAG value. Tags are all uppercase. Their order is fixed. Some values are terminated by a newline, others by the next semicolon. Valid tags, and their internal names are:

- ID 8 character ID used when exporting to Tucson format
- NAME Name of the series
- DATING Either R (relative) or A (absolute)
- UNMEAS PRE Number of unmeasured rings towards the pith

- UNMEAS_POST Number of unmeasured rings towards the bark
- FILENAME
- COMMENTS, COMMENTS2 etc Free text comments
- TYPE either C (core), H (charcoal) or S (section)
- SPECIES
- SAPWOOD Count of sapwood rings
- PITH either P (present), * (present but undateable), or N (absent)
- TERMINAL either B (bark), W (waney edge), v (near edge), vv (unknown)
- CONTINUOUS referring to the outer ring, either C (continuous), R (partially continuous) or N (not continuous)
- QUALITY either + (one unmeasured ring), ++ (more than one unmeasured ring)
- FORMAT either R (raw) or I (indexed)
- INDEX TYPE type of index used
- RECONCILED Y or N indicating whether the series has been reconciled against another series

The *data section* comes next and this always starts with the line; DATA and for reasons lost in time there are nine spaces afterwards.

Data lines come in pairs, the first line containing the year and data values, the second containing the sample depth/count for each value. For reasons unknown, the first and last data line pair have a slightly different syntax to the others.

- First data line begins with a space and an integer for the first year in the line. There then follows 9 spaces followed by the integer data value for the first ring. The remaining data values (often less than a full decades worth) on that line follow as integers left padded by spaces to take up 6 characters.
- The sample depth line that pairs with this follows next starting with 16 spaces, followed by the sample depth value enclosed in square brackets. The remaining sample depth values follow in square brackets left padding with spaces to take up 6 characters.
- Next comes the first normal data line. This begins with a space, followed by an integer year value. The data values follow as integers left padded by spaces to take up 6 characters. A data line has a decades worth of data values.
- Next comes the normal sample depth line. It begins with 7 spaces followed by each of the sample depth values enclosed in square brackets and left padded with spaces up to 6 characters.
- Data lines continue in pairs until the last line is reached. This is the same as a normal data line except it includes an extra data value 9990 as a stop marker. This data line may have less than a full decade of values.
- The final sample depth line is the same as normal except it is shifted left by 4 characters. A sample depth value is also included for the dummy 9990 stop marker year.

Following the data block there is a blank line and two option blocks of data that are only included if the file is a chronology file.

The next block of information in a chronology file is denoted by a line ;ELEMENTS. The following lines contain the file names of the data files that have contributed to the creation of the chronology.

Following this is an optional block denoted by the line ;weiserjahre followed by the weiserjahre data. Each weiserjahre data line begins with a space followed by a integer year value for the first year in the line. The weiserjahre value is left padded with spaces to fill 6 characters and the value itself is written as X/Y where X is the number of samples that show an upward trend in width; and Y is the number of samples that show a downward trend in width. The weiserjahre value is forward facing so the value for ring 1001 shows the trend between ring 1001 and 1002. There is therefore one less weiserjahre value in the final row than there are ring-widths.

The final line of Corina data files contains the author's name preceded by a tilde.

F.2. Example file

```
Trebenna, Byzantine Fortress, NW tower 1AB
    ;ID 907010;NAME Trebenna, Byzantine Fortress, NW tower 1AB; DATING R;UNMEAS PRE 1;UNMEAS POST 1
    ;FILENAME G:\DATA\TRB\TRB1AB.SUM
    ;TYPE S;SPECIES Juniperus sp.;FORMAT R;PITH +
    ;TERMINAL vv;CONTINUOUS N;QUALITY +
8
    ; RECONCILED Y
9
    ;DATA
10
    1001
                   125
                          219
                                207
                                       139
                                               62
                                                    107
                                                            29
                                                                   91
                                                                          65
11
12
                     [1]
                            [1]
                                   [1]
                                         [1]
                                                [1]
                                                       [1]
                                                              [1]
                                                                    [1]
                                                                           [1]
    1010
             71
                   132
                           74
                                150
                                        75
                                              156
                                                    122
                                                            81
                                                                   46
                                                                          57
13
                           [1]
                     [1]
                                   [1]
                                         [1]
                                                [1]
                                                       [1]
                                                             [1]
                                                                    [1]
                                                                           [1]
14
              [1]
                                                                         129
     1020
             147
                    78
                                        73
                                                             71
                           89
                                126
                                              121
                                                      67
                                                                   64
                            [1]
                                         [1]
              [1]
                     [1]
                                   [1]
                                                [1]
                                                       [1]
                                                             [1]
                                                                    [1]
                                                                           [1]
16
    1030
                                                                  100
             149
                   155
                          122
                                        53
                                                      90
                                                            65
                                                                          67
                                126
                                              136
17
18
              [1]
                     [1]
                            [1]
                                   [1]
                                         [1]
                                                [1]
                                                       [1]
                                                              [1]
                                                                    [1]
                                                                           [2]
    1040
             67
                   101
                          132
                                102
                                        40
                                               67
                                                      42
                                                            36
                                                                   62
                                                                          29
19
              [2]
                     [2]
                            [2]
                                  [2]
                                         [2]
                                               [2]
                                                       [2]
                                                              [2]
                                                                    [2]
                                                                          [2]
    1050
              30
                    44
                           46
                                  40
                                        34
                                                            29
                                                                   44
21
                                               61
                                                      55
                                                                          63
              [2]
                     [2]
                            [2]
                                  [2]
                                         [2]
                                                [2]
                                                                    [2]
                                                                           [2]
                                                       [2]
                                                              [2]
22
    1060
             62
                                        26
                                                      37
                                                            21
                                                                          27
                    38
                           22
                                 26
                                               28
                                                                   21
              [2]
                     [2]
                            [2]
                                  [2]
                                         [2]
                                                [2]
                                                       [2]
                                                             [2]
                                                                    [2]
                                                                          [2]
24
    1070
                           50
                                                                          20
              17
                                 21
                                        33
                                                                   27
                                                      17
                                                            16
25
                    18
                                               12
              [2]
                    [2]
                           [2]
                                  [2]
                                         [2]
                                                [2]
                                                       [2]
                                                              [2]
                                                                    [1]
                                                                           [1]
26
    1080
                                  8 9990
             18
                    11
                            9
27
                            [1] [1]
28
          [1]
                [1]
                       [1]
29
    ; ELEMENTS
30
   G:\DATA\TRB\TRB1A.REC
   G:\DATA\TRB1B.REC
32
33
    ; weiserjahre
                                                                                   0/1
                                                                                             1/0
     1001
             1/0
                       0/1
                                 0/1
                                           0/1
                                                     1/0
                                                               0/1
                                                                         1/0
34
     1010
            1/0
                       0/1
                                 1/0
                                           0/1
                                                     1/0
                                                               0/1
                                                                         0/1
                                                                                   0/1
                                                                                             1/0
                                                                                                       1/0
35
     1020
                                 1/0
                                                     1/0
                                                                                   0/1
                                                                                             1/0
                                                                                                       1/0
             0/1
                       1/0
                                           0/1
                                                               0/1
                                                                         1/0
37
     1030
             1/0
                       0/1
                                 1/0
                                           0/1
                                                     1/0
                                                               0/1
                                                                         0/1
                                                                                   1/0
                                                                                             0/1
                                                                                                       1/1
     1040
             2/0
                       2/0
                                 0/2
                                           0/2
                                                     2/0
                                                               0/2
                                                                                   2/0
                                                                                             0/2
                                                                                                       2/0
                                                                         0/2
38
     1050
             2/0
                       1/1
                                 0/2
                                           0/2
                                                     2/0
                                                               0/2
                                                                         0/2
                                                                                   2/0
                                                                                             2/0
                                                                                                       1/1
     1060
                                 2/0
                                                                                             2/0
             0/2
                       0/2
                                           1/1
                                                     2/0
                                                               2/0
                                                                         0/2
                                                                                   1/1
                                                                                                       0/2
40
     1070
             1/1
                       2/0
                                 0/2
                                           2/0
                                                     0/2
                                                               2/0
                                                                         1/1
                                                                                   1/0
                                                                                             0/1
                                                                                                       0/1
41
    1080
             0/1
                       0/1
                                 0/1
    ~ Unknown User
```

G. DendroDB

Format name DendroDB

Other name(s)

Type Text file Extension(s) dat

Read/write support Read only

Reference implementation DendroDB website

Data / metadata Data and some structured metadata

Calendar type Astronomical

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Multi series support
Yes

Original designer Simon Brewer

G.1. Description

The DendroDB format is an export file format produced by the DendroDB website/database. There is no known software that can natively read DendroDB files so a 'writer' for this format has not been developed.

The format is self-explanatory, beginning with a copyright line, followed by 7 metadata lines, then the data itself. There are eight possible data variables: Total width; Earlywood width; Latewood width; Min. Density; Max. Density; Earlywood density; Latewood density; Average density. Ring width data is provided in microns but the units for density measurements are not document.

As of Feb 2011, the DendroDB database does not contain data prior to 441AD so handling of BC/AD transition has not been tested. The DendroDB web interface suggests that BC dates should be entered as negative integers, but it also allows request for data from year 0. This suggests the database uses an Astronomical calendar and this is how the DendrolOLib treats it.

G.2. Example file

```
Data downloaded from DendroDB. Please acknowledge authors
   Site: Example site
   Contact: A N Other
   Species: Larix sibirica
   Parameter: Latewood width Latitude: 53.25
   Longitude: 57.35
   Elevation: 1670
Tree Core Year Latewood width
   1 1 1648 16
   1 1 1649 21
   1 1 1650 8
13 1 1 1651 10
14 1 1652 6
   1 1 1653 8
   1 1 1654 11
   1 1 1655 13
  1 1 1656 9
1 1 1657 10
18
20 1 1 1658 10
23 1 1 1661 7
  1 1 1662 4
1 1 1663 8
24
25
```

H. Heidelberg

Format name
Other name(s)
TSAP, FH
Type
Text file
Extension(s)
The Heidelberg
TSAP, FH
Text file
State of the Heidelberg
TSAP, FH
Text file

Read/write support Read and write Reference implementation TSAP-Win

Data / metadata Data and extensible metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Yes
Multi series support
Yes

Original designer Frank Rinn

H.1. Description

The Heidelberg format (Rinn, 2008) is the native file format for Rinntech's TSAP-Win software. It supports metadata in the form of keyword-value pairs. There are more than 140 standard keywords specified in the documentation, but users can extend these with their own. This makes the format extremely flexible, but the absence of any checking of data types (strings, numbers categories etc) and no method of validation means that there can be problems interpreting metadata entries.

Heidelberg files can store one or more series in a single file. Each series is represented by a header and a data block.

The header block begins with a line HEADER:. This is followed by lines of metadata, with one field on each line, in the format keywords=value much like a standard Windows INI file. As mentioned previously there are a number of predefined keywords, all of which are outlined here:

- AcceptDate
- Age
- AutoCorrelation
- Bark
- BHD
- Bibliography

- Bibliography[n]
- BibliographyCount
- Bundle
- CardinalPoint
- ChronologyType
- ChronoMemberCount

- ChronoMemberKeycodes
- Circumference
- Client
- ClientNo
- Collector
- Comment
- Comment[n]
- CommentCount
- Continent
- CoreNo
- Country
- CreationDate
- DataFormat
- DataType
- DateBegin
- Dated
- DateEnd
- DateEndRel
- DateOfSampling
- DateRelBegin[n]
- DateRelEnd[n]
- DateRelReferenceKey[n]
- DateRelCount
- DeltaMissingRingsAfter
- DeltaMissingRingsBefore
- DeltaRingsFromSeedToPith
- Disk
- District
- EdgeInformation
- EffectiveAutoCorrelation
- EffectiveMean
- EffectiveMeanSensitivity
- EffectiveNORFAC
- Key
- EffectiveNORFM
- EffectiveStandardDeviation
- Eigenvalue
- Elevation
- EstimatedTimePeriod
- Exposition
- FieldNo
- FilmNo
- FirstMeasurementDate
- FirstMeasurementPersID
- FromSeedToDateBegin
- GlobalMathComment[n]
- GlobalMathCommentCount
- GraphParam
- Group
- HouseName
- HouseNo
- ImageCellRow
- ImageComment[n]

- ImageFile[n]
- ImageCount
- ImageFile
- Interpretation
- InvalidRingsAfter
- InvalidRingsBefore
- IuvenileWood
- KeyCode
- KeyNo
- LabotaryCode
- LastRevisionDate
- LastRevisionPersID
- Latitude
- LeaveLoss
- Length
- Location
- LocationCharacteristics
- Longitude
- MajorDimension
- MathComment
- MathComment[n]
- MathCommentCount
- MeanSensitivity
- MinorDimension
- MissingRingsAfter
- MissingRingsBefore
- NumberOfSamplesInChrono
- NumberOfTreesInChrono
- PersId
- Pith
- Proiect
- ProtectionCode
- Province
- QualityCode
- Radius
- RadiusNo
- RelGroundWaterLevel
- RingsFromSeedToPith
- SampleType
- SamplingHeight
- SamplingPoint
- SapWoodRings
- Sequence
- SeriesEnd
- SeriesStart
- SeriesType
- ShapeOfSample
- Site
- SiteCode
- SocialStand
- SoilType
- Species
- SpeciesName

- StandardDeviation
- State
- StemDiskNo
- Street
- Timber
- TimberHeight
- TimberType
- TimberWidth
- TotalAutoCorrelation
- TotalMean
- TotalMeanSensitivity
- TotalNORFAC
- TotalNORFM

- TotalStandardDeviation
- Town
- TownZipCode
- Tree
- TreeHeight
- TreeNo
- Unit
- UnmeasuredInnerRings
- UnmeasuredOuterRings
- WaldKante
- WoodMaterialType
- WorkTraces

The meaning of many of these keywords is fairly self-explanatory but others are a little more obscure. As there is no data typing or validation the format of the contents of these fields cannot be predicted. This is particularly a problem when trying to compare fields such as Latitude, Longitude and FirstMeasurementDate, but is especially a problem when comparing files produced in different labs.

The header section is followed by a data section denoted by a line containing the keyword DATA: followed by the type of data present which can be one of Tree; HalfChrono; Chrono; Single; Double; Quad. Tree, HalfChrono and Chrono are the original keywords supported by early versions of TSAP but these are now deprecated in preferences of the more generic Single, Double and Quad terms. The terms Single, Double and Quad are largely interchangeable with Tree, HalfChrono and Chrono respectively, but not completely. Double can refer to both Tree and HalfChrono format data. When the newer terms are used, the header keyword DataFormat is used to record whether the data is equivalent to Tree, HalfChrono or Chrono.

Single format - data is typically used for storing raw measurement series. Each data line contains 10 data values each being a left space padded integer taking up 6 characters. Any spare data values in the final data line are filled with zeros. Alternatively it appears that TSAP-Win also accepts this data section as single integer values one per line.

Double format - data is for storing data with sample depth information - typically chronologies. Like the single format section, data is stored as 10 integer values, each taking up 6 characters and left padded with spaces. The values are in pairs of ring-widths and sample depths, therefore five rings are stored per line.

Quad format - data is for storing chronologies with sample depth as well as data on how many of the constituent series increase and decrease. This format therefore requires four numbers for each data point: ring-width; sample depth; increasing series; decreasing series. Numbers are stored as integers, left space padded as before, but this time only using 5 characters not 6. Four data points are included on each line, therefore this means there are 16 numbers per row and each row is 80 characters long.

H.2. Example file - raw series

```
HEADER:
   DateEnd=-66
   KeyNo=27
   Project=Growth studies
   Length=103
   Location=Example site
   Species=PISY
   SapWoodRings=14
   WaldKante=WKF
   State=Colorado
10
   PersId=FR
11
   KeyCode=271017
   Country=USA
13
   DateOfSampling=19950506
14
   TreeNo=5
   CoreNo=1
16
   Exposition=North-West
17
18
   CreationDate=19970526
   SoilType=Sand
19
   DATA: Tree
       125
                           120
                                 115
                                        145
                                               151
                                                     130
                                                            135
                                                                   151
21
       200
             190
                    151
                           170
                                 170
                                        174
                                               170
                                                     200
                                                            210
                                                                   130
22
                           160
                                        155
                                               180
                                                     199
       180
             197
                    210
                                 180
                                                            140
                                                                   150
       146
             140
                    145
                           150
                                 155
                                        110
                                               115
                                                     113
                                                            120
                                                                   130
24
                    150
       110
             120
                           120
                                 120
                                        110
                                               115
                                                     160
                                                            160
                                                                   145
25
       135
             145
                    125
                           115
                                 145
                                        149
                                               120
                                                     150
                                                            160
                                                                    99
26
              75
                     70
                                  96
                                         90
                                                            155
                                                                   130
       110
                            82
                                               120
                                                     151
27
28
       132
             133
                    149
                           110
                                 130
                                        120
                                               128
                                                     118
                                                            125
                                                                   115
        95
              90
                    110
                                  80
                                         85
                                                97
                                                                   100
29
        90
              70
                     80
                            90
                                  85
                                         78
                                                95
                                                      84
                                                             70
                                                                    90
30
                                                       n
        80
              75
                     70
                                          0
                                                 0
                                                                     0
```

H.3. Example file - chronology

```
HEADER:
   KeyCode=ABCK0530
   DataFormat=HalfChrono
   SeriesType=Mean curve
   Length=60
   DateBegin=987
   DateEnd=1046
   Dated=Dated
   Location=Example site
   Species=QUSP
10
   GlobalMathCommentCount=0
11
   ImageCount=0
   CommentCount=0
13
   BibliographyCount=0
14
   DATA: Double
15
                                 264
                                               206
       125
                1
                    125
                             2
                                          2
                                                            115
                                                                     2
16
                    188
                             2
                                 308
                                               197
                                                        2
                                                            419
                                                                     2
17
       111
                2
                                          2
       238
                    227
                                  279
                                               293
                                                            271
18
                             2
                                          2
                                                                     2
       309
                2
                                 204
                                               163
                    170
19
                                                            175
                                          2
                2
                                                                     2
20
       164
                    211
                                  134
                                               141
                                                            107
                2
                                           2
                                               110
                                                                     2
        72
                     74
                             2 2 2
                                  91
                                                        2 2 2
                                                              47
21
                                          2
                                                                     2
        87
                2
                     87
                                   35
                                                              80
                                                47
22
                2
        66
                     38
                                   82
                                                78
                                                              65
```

24	63	2	76	2	67	2	91	2	73	3
25	39	3	41	. 3	78	3	57	3	54	3
26	41	3	39	3	52	3	53	3	43	3
27	48	3	32	3	32	3	48	3	59	3

I. Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP

Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP Format name

Other name(s) Binary Interchange File Format, BIFF

Binary file Type

Extension(s) xls

Read/write support Read and write Reference implementation Microsoft Excel Data / metadata Data only Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes Undated series support No Relative dating support No Multi series support Yes

Original designer Microsoft

I.1. Description

The Excel file format is a widely used format for storing spreadsheet data. It is a proprietary binary format created by Microsoft but suppported by many spreadsheet and statistical applications. It is not to be confused with the Office Open XML format which was introduced by Microsoft with MS Office 2007 and typically has the file extension xlsx.

Although Excel files can contain multiple sheets in a workbook, only the first sheet is considered. Like the CSV and ODF Spreadsheet formats, support for Excel files is limited to a particular layout or style of spreadsheet. The layout of the data sheet should be as follows:

- Row 1 Header names for each column
- Column A Year values
- Column B+ One column for each series containing data values. Cells are left empty if no data is available for a series because it does not extend to a particular year. Data must be continuous for each series, so missing/unmeasured rings should be included as zero.

I.2. Example file

	Α	В	С
1	Year	MySample1	MySample2
2	1954	0.33	
3	1955	0.26	0.26
4	1956	0.2	0.2
5	1957	0.14	0.14
6	1958	0.08	0.08
7	1959	0.02	0.02
8	1960	0.2	0.2
9	1961	0.14	0.14
10	1962	0.08	0.08
11	1963	0.2	
12	1964	0.33	
13	1965	0.08	
14	1966	0.33	
15	1967	0.22	
16			

J. Microsoft Excel 2007

Format name Microsoft Excel 2007

Other name(s) Office Open XML Spreadsheet, OOXML, OpenXML

Type XML file Extension(s) xlsx

Read/write support
Reference implementation
Data / metadata
Calendar type
Read and write
ISO 29500
Data only
Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Multi series support
Original designer

Yes
No
No
Multi series support
Yes
Original fesigner

Yes

J.1. Description

This is the new XML file format introduced by Microsoft with Excel 2007. Unlike the binary format used by the previous version of Excel, this format is an open standard. However, it should not be confused with the OpenDocument Format standard that was developed by the OASIS consortium.

The layout of the data sheet should be just as for the Excel 97/2000/XP format:

- Row 1 Header names for each column
- Column A Year values
- Column B+ One column for each series containing data values. Cells are left empty if
 no data is available for a series because it does not extend to a particular year. Data
 must be continuous for each series, so missing/unmeasured rings should be included
 as zero.

See the screenshot in the Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP format to see how an example of how the spreadsheet should look.

K. Nottingham

Format name Nottingham

Other name(s) Nottingham Laboratory format

Type Text file Extension(s) txt

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation Unknown
Data / metadata Data only
Calendar type n/a
Absolute dating support

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
No
Multi series support

Original designer

Original designer

Original designer Cliff Litton

K.1. Description

The Nottingham format was designed by Cliff Litton. It is a simple text format with no support for metadata.

Line 1 contains a series name and an integer indicating how many data values there are in the file. Subsequent lines contain the data represented as 1/100th mm integers in twenty columns seemingly in either 4 characters or 3 characters + 1 space.

There is no known reference implementation for this format and few known examples of data so little is known about how it should handle unusual situations such as negative values, values >999 etc.

K.2. Example file

```
ABCD01
           176
342 338 334 409 362 308 360 264 325 318 134 151 219 268 290 222 278 258 173 198 294 202 170 176 172 121 87 130 114 108 170 135 131 126 87 100 86 104 103 127
112 94 96 120 168 149 119 124
                                   79 67
                                            88 90 93
                                                        77
                                                              49 42
                                                                      53
                                                                          38 57
                                                                                   43
 50
     41
         56
             66
                 62
                      55
                           55
                               45
                                    47
                                        63
                                            58
                                                 60
                                                     44
                                                         45
                                                              49
                                                                  50
                                                                      62
                                                                           61
                                                                               43
                                                                                   54
                                                                                   47
 91 60
         56
             43 52
                      51
                                   55
                                       44
                                            41
                                                 75
                                                     94
                                                         78
                                                                  69
                                                                      58
                                                                           75
                                                                               55
                           65
                               68
                                                             63
 58
    46
             45 52
                      50
                           77
                                   63 75
                                           77
                                                 64
                                                    66
                                                        57 80 57
                                                                      78
                                                                           65
                                                                               68
                                                                                   75
         62
                               50
              82 119
89 50
 65
     98
         85
                      89
                          85
                               87
                                    83 108 129 123 160 117 129 121
                                                                      88
                                                                           69
                                                                               97
                                                                                   77
                                                                                   70
                      65 133
                                       50
                                                                               98
 96 106
         71
             89
                               89
                                    88
                                            60
                                                95
                                                    95
                                                        91 102 158
                                                                      83
                                                                           55
    46
         40 36
                 64
                          52
                               58
                                   56
                                       94
                                            51
                                                 48
                                                    47
                                                        60 49 48
```

L. ODF Spreadsheet

Format name ODF Spreadsheet

Other name(s) ODF, ODS, OpenDocument Spreadsheet, OpenOf-

fice.org Spreadsheet,

Type XML file Extension(s) ods

Read/write support Read and write Reference implementation ISO/IEC 26300:2006

Data / metadata Data only Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support No
Relative dating support No
Multi series support Yes

Original designer OASIS consortium

L.1. Description

The OpenDocument Format (ODF) spreadsheet format is an XML-based specification developed by the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) consortium. It should not be confused with the similarly named Office Open XML format developed by Microsoft. The ODF spreadsheet format is an open standard which can be read by most modern spreadsheet applications including MS Excel, OpenOffice.org and Google Docs.

Support for ODF spreadsheets in TRiCYCLE is necessarily limited to a particular layout of spreadsheet:

- Row 1 Header names for each column
- Column A Year values
- Column B+ One column for each series containing data values. Cells are left empty if
 no data is available for a series because it does not extend to a particular year. Data
 must be continuous for each series, so missing/unmeasured rings should be included
 as zero.

Please see the Excel section for a screenshot of how an ODF spreadsheet should look.

M. Oxford

Format name Oxford

Other name(s) Dan Miles Format, English Heritage Format

Type Text file

Extension(s) Various including dan, ddf but often none

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation Various English Heritage applications

Data / metadata Data only Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support Yes
Relative dating support Yes
Multi series support No

Original designer Ancient Monuments Laboratory of English Heritage

M.1. Description

The Oxford format seems to be only currently used in the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. It was designed in the 1980s for use with a number of DOS based applications for the English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory. It is still actively used by the Oxford Lab with these programs and a number of newer Windows applications.

The file is a text file format containing two header lines following by a block of data values and an optional block of count/sample depth values. Some files also contain a number of comment lines at the end of the file.

Line 1 contains the following fields:

- Char 1 Apostrophe
- Chars 2-8 Series name
- Char 9-10 spaces
- Char 11 <
- Chars 12-15 First year in sequence (when series is securely dated). Year should be left padded with spaces if less than 4 characters.
- Char 16 hyphen
- Chars 17-20 Last year in sequence (when series is securely dated). Year should be left padded with spaces if less than 4 characters.
- Char 21 space

- Char 22+ Description typically name of site/building etc
- Final char optional apostrophe

Line 2 contains:

- Integer number of years
- Comma
- Integer start year

The start year on line 2 and the first year on line 1 will be the same for securely dated series. When the series is tentatively or relatively dated the first year (and/or) the last year on line 1 will be left blank. For undated series the start year is set to 1001.

The data lines follow the two header lines. These typically contain 10 data values per line, but there can be more (if rings have been added) or less e.g. last line. The values are in 1/100th mm integers and can only contain three digits (e.g. max 999 1/100th mm). Data values are space delimited. Some example files contain values that are left padded with zeros if the value is on 1 or 2 characters wide (e.g. '025' rather than '25').

Following the data values there should be an empty line followed by an optional sample count/depth block. The count block is formatted in largely the same way as the data values block. The values are stored in columns 2 characters (rather than 3 characters) wide. Like the data values, the count values are space delimited integers, typically (but not always) 10 per line.

The file is terminated with 0, 1 or 2 free-text comment lines. A number of Oxford data files have been seen that terminate with the ASCII control character referred to variably as 'SUB', 'SUBSTITUTE' or 'CTRL+Z' (represented in Unicode as character dec 26 - hex 1A). It is not clear whether this is necessary for any particular programs to function.

M.2. Limitations

- Only holds whole ring-width data
- Does not cope with data values >999 1/100th mm
- Does not cope with chronologies of >99 samples
- Does not allow dates before 1AD

M.3. Example file

```
<1850-1925> A Fictious site - abcd1 abcd2'
     'ABCD
     75,1850
     422 582 355 266 225 271 361 235 387 395
     794 611 446 248 277 359 111 226 189 711
     464 172 190 239 128 153 234 828 207 157 768 180 178 168 204 163 160 255 166 136
     182 201 142 188 223 186 150 135 134 666
     191 122 223 555 123 126 108 133 137 134 161 222 93 100 132 104 86 277 101 141
     185 151 261 110 145
11
                                2
2
2
2
2
2
2
2
                                    2
2
2
2
2
2
2
                                                  2
2
2
2
2
2
2
                 2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 2
2 2 1
                                         2 2
2 2
2 2
2 2
2 2
2 2
2 2
13
14
        2 2 2 2
            2 2 2
16
17
18
             2
```

N. PAST4

Format name PAST4

P4P PAST4 Project File Other name(s)

Type Text file Extension(s) p4p

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation PAST4

Data and some structured metadata Data / metadata

Calendar type Gregorian Yes

Absolute dating support Undated series support Relative dating support

Multi series support Yes

Original designer Bernhard Knibbe

The PAST4 format (Knibbe, 2008) is the native file format for SCIEM's PAST4 software. It is a hybrid XML file, containing most metadata in structured XML but some metadata and all data as plain text. It is unique amongst dendro data formats in that it contains not only data and metadata but also settings information for the PAST4 software such as details on what colours to use in graphs, which series should be displayed on screen etc. The general structure of a P4P file is as follows:

- Project header (required)
- Settings (optional)
- Groups (required, repeatable)
- Records (required, repeatable)

The root XML tag for the file is <PAST_4_PROJECT_FILE>. Inside this is the <PROJECT> tag which contains the following attributes:

- ActiveGroup Zero based index specifying which group is active
- EditDate Date the file was last edited
- Groups Number of groups within this project
- Locked Either TRUE or FALSE indicating whether a password is required to open the
- Name Name of the project
- Password Password used to lock the project
- PersID Abbreviation of the authors name
- Records Number of records in the project
- Reference Zero based index indicated which is the reference series (-1 if none se-
- Sample Zero based index indicating which is the selected sample (-1 if none selected)

• Version - Version number for this PAST4 format. At the time of writing only one version exists (400).

Of these fields only Name, Groups and Records are mandatory. The project tag can also contain a <! [CDATA[tag which allows the storing of a project description in plain text.

Next comes the <SETTINGS> tag. This is one very large XML tag with many attributes controlling the what PAST4 should display the data. The contents of this tag are optional and are therefore irrelevant for the transfer of dendro data.

Next comes one or more <GROUPS> tags. A group is an arbitrary collection of series, perhaps representing a number of measurements of a single object, or perhaps an administrative collection of series. Groups can be nested in a hierarchy, but rather than use the hierarchical nature of XML files, the format instead lists all groups side-by-side and maintains the relationships through the use of an 'owner' attribute containing the index of the parent group. This arrangement means than any changes to the hierarchy, or the deletion of a group requires all indices to be carefully updated to avoid corrupting the file. The group tag has the following attributes:

- Name Name of the group
- Visible Either TRUE or FALSE indicating whether the group should be shown in graphs
- Fixed Either TRUE or FALSE indicating whether the group can be moved
- Locked Either TRUE or FALSE. If locked the group can be used in the calculation of further mean values.
- Changed Internal TRUE or FALSE value for keeping track of changes
- Expanded TRUE or FALSE value indicating whether the group should be expanding in the project navigator window
- UseColor TRUE or FALSE value for is content should be displayed in color
- HasMeanValue TRUE or FALSE indicating if the group has a dynamic mean value
- IsChrono TRUE or FALSE indicating if the group mean is calculated with sample depth information
- Checked TRUE or FALSE indicating if the group is locked and checked
- Selected TRUE or FALSE indicated in the group is selected in the project navigation window
- Color 24bit integer indicating the RGB volor value for the group using Borland format
- Quality Integer value describing the quality of the group mean
- MVKeycode String code for the group. If empty the Name field is used
- Owner Integer pointing containing the index of the parent group if this group is in a hierarchy. If its a top level group it should be -1.

As with the project tag, the group tag can also contain a <! [CDATA [section for storing a plain text description of the group.

The final tag type in the file is the <RECORDS> tag. These contain the actual data series and most of the metadata. Like group tags, records tags are placed side-by-side in the file and are placed into the group hierarchy by the use of the 'owner' attribute. In addition, the tag also has the following attributes:

- Keycode Name of the series
- Length Integer for the number of rings
- Owner Integer index to the group to which this record belongs
- Chrono TRUE or FALSE indicating whether this record has density information
- Locked TRUE or FALSE indicating in the record can be moved
- Filter TRUE or FALSE indicating if an indexing function is appled to the data
- FilterIndex Integer index for the filter used
- FilterS1 Parameter 1 for the filter
- FilterS2 Parameter 2 for the filter
- FilterB1 Additional filter parameter
- FilterWeight Additional filter parameter
- Offset Position of the first ring
- Color 24bit RGB color for record in Borland format
- Checked TRUE or FALSE indicating is the record is selected for use in the dynamic group mean
- !VShift Temporary integer value added to data value to shift vertically in graphs
- IsMeanValue TRUE or FALSE indicating if this is a dynamic mean value
- Pith TRUE or FALSE
- SapWood Integer storing the number of sapwood rings
- Location String location information
- Waldkante String description of presence of waney edge
- FirstValidRing Integer indicating which ring is the first valid ring. If >0 then some rings are discarded
- LastValidRing Integer indicating which ring is the last valid ring. If >0 then some rings are discarded
- UseValidRingsOnly TRUE or FALSE internal use only
- Quality Integer indicating the quality of the record

The record tag then contains a <HEADER> tag with a <![CDATA[section which includes additional free-text header information. There are no requirements as to how information should be laid out in this field however many users seem to adopt the Heidelberg style of keyword=value.

Next comes the <DATA> tag which is empty except another <! [CDATA [section. This is where the actual ring-width data is stored. Each data value is recorded on a separate line (using CR LR line breaks). Each line contains the following six tab delimited fields:

- Ring width as a floating point number
- Sample depth
- Number of sample increasing
- Latewood percentage as a floating point value 0-1 (0 if not known)
- Duplicate/backup ring-width value to store the original ring-width value. If an index is applied the ring-width value in column 1 is altered.
- Comment string about this particular ring

N.1. Dating

PAST4 contains an option for enabling/disabling the year 0 but it does not record within the data file whether the option was set when the file was created. By default the year 0 is disabled therefore the library treats PAST4 files as if they use the Gregorian calendar but it is possible that files were in fact created with the Astronomical calendar in mind.

N.2. Example file

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
    <PAST 4 PROJECT FILE>
2
        <PROJECT Name="title0" Version="400" Locked="FALSE" Password=""
3
             .
CreationDate="04/05/2006 2:13:51 PM" EditDate="09/01/2010 13:02" ActiveGroup="0"
             Reference="-1" Sample="-1" PersID="investigator0" Groups="2" Records="3">
5
    <![CDATA[ description0
6
    ]]></PROJECT>
         <SETTINGS/>
8
         <GROUP Name="title1" Visible="TRUE" Fixed="FALSE" Locked="FALSE" Changed="FALSE"</pre>
9
             Expanded="TRUE" UseColor="TRUE" HasMeanValue="FALSE" IsChrono="FALSE"
10
             11
12
              <![CDATA[]]></GROUP>
         <GROUP Name="Unnamed Group" Visible="TRUE" Fixed="FALSE" Locked="FALSE" Changed="FALSE"</pre>
13
             Expanded="TRUE" UseColor="TRUE" HasMeanValue="FALSE" IsChrono="FALSE" Checked="FALSE"
14
             Selected="FALSE" Color="0" MVKeycode="" Owner="-1"><![CDATA[]]></GROUP>
15
         <RECORD Keycode="title6" Length="4" Owner="0" Chrono="FALSE" Locked="FALSE" Filter="FALSE"</pre>
16
             FilterIndex="-1" FilterS1="100" FilterS2="100" FilterB1="FALSE" FilterWeight="" Offset
17
             Color="0" Checked="FALSE" VShift="0" IsMeanValue="0" Pith="FALSE" SapWood="0"
18
             Location="locationComment1" Species="Quercus" Waldkante="" FirstValidRing="0"
19
             LastValidRing="0" UseValidRingsOnly="FALSE">
20
             <HEADER><![CDATA[Unit=1/100th millimetres</pre>
21
    ]]></HEADER>
             <DATA><![CDATA[123
                                                                       123
23
                                          123
   123
             1
24
                       1
                                0
   123
                       1
                                0
                                          123
25
   125
             1
                                0
26
27
    ]]></DATA>
         </RECORD>
28
        <RECORD Keycode="title6" Length="4" Owner="0" Chrono="FALSE" Locked="FALSE" Filter="FALSE"
FilterIndex="-1" FilterS1="100" FilterS2="100" FilterB1="FALSE" FilterWeight="" Offset</pre>
29
30
             Color="0" Checked="FALSE" VShift="0" IsMeanValue="0" Pith="FALSE" SapWood="0" Location="locationComment1" Species="QUSP" Waldkante="" FirstValidRing="0"
31
32
             LastValidRing="0" UseValidRingsOnly="FALSE">
33
             <HEADER><![CDATA[Unit=1/100th millimetres</pre>
34
    ]]></HEADER>
35
             <DATA> <! [CDATA| 123
                                                                       123
36
   123
             1
                       1
                                0
                                          123
37
                                0
   123
             1
                       1
                                          123
38
                       1
                                0
                                          125
39
   125
             1
    ]]></DATA>
40
         </RECORD>
41
         <RECORD Keycode="Unnamed series" Length="2" Owner="1" Chrono="FALSE" Locked="FALSE"</pre>
42
             Filter="FALSE" FilterIndex="-1" FilterS1="100" FilterS2="100" FilterB1="FALSE"
FilterWeight="" Offset="0" Color="0" Checked="FALSE" VShift="0" IsMeanValue="0"
Pith="FALSE" SapWood="0" Location="" Species="" Waldkante="" FirstValidRing="0"
43
44
45
             LastValidRing="0" UseValidRingsOnly="FALSE">
46
             <HEADER><![CDATA[ Unit=Wierd units</pre>
47
    ]]></HEADER>
48
             <DATA> <! [CDATA[96]
                                                                                fire_damage; fire_damage;
49
   34
                       1
                                          34
                                                    fire_damage; fire_damage;
50
    ]]></DATA>
51
         </RECORD>
52
    </PAST 4 PROJECT FILE>
```

O. Sheffield

Format name Sheffield
Other name(s) D Format
Type Text file
Extension(s) .d

Read/write support Read and write
Reference implementation Dendro for Windows

Data / metadata Data and some structured metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Multi series support
Original designer

Yes
No
Ian Tyers

0.1. Description

Sheffield format (Tyers, 1999) is a dendro specific text file designed by Ian Tyers for his Dendro for Windows application. It is probably most widely used in the UK but is also used in continental Europe as well as New Zealand.

The format contains both data and some structured metadata with each field/value stored one per line. The order of fields is fixed so missing data must be indicated by the use of a question mark. The data present on each line is as follows:

- 1. Site name/sample number Free form text not including , "() up to 64 characters
- 2. Number of rings Whole positive number
- 3. Date type Single character; A = absolute date, R = relative date
- 4. Start date Whole number (can be negative). If absolute year then add 10000 to value so 1AD = 10001
- 5. Raw data type or Mean data type
 - Single character; R = annual raw ring-width data (NB earlier versions used some other codes here for species e.g. ABEFPSU these are all interpreted as equivalent to R)
 - Single character; W=timber mean with signatures, X=chron mean with signatures, T = timber mean, C = chron mean, M = un-weighted master sequence
- 6. Raw sapwood number or mean number of timbers/chronologies
 - Whole positive number or 0

- Whole positive number
- 7. Raw edges inf. or Mean chronology type
 - Single character; Y = has bark, ! = has ?bark, W = terminal ring probably complete (i.e. possibly Winter Felled), S = terminal ring probably incomplete (i.e. possibly Summer Felled), B = has h/s boundary, ? = has ?h/s boundary, N = has no specific edge, (NB but may have sap), U = sap/bark unknown, C = charred outer edge, P = possibly charred outer edge
 - Single character; R = raw unfiltered data, 5 = 5 year running mean, I = indexed data, U = unknown mean type
- 8. Author and comment Free form text not including , "() up to 64 characters
- 9. UK National grid reference 2 characters +even no of digits up to 14 characters in all, ? = not known e.g. TQ67848675
- 10. Latitude and longitude Either decimal format e.g. 53.382457;-1.513623 or previously N51^30 W1^20
- 11. Pith single character; C = centre of tree, V = within 5 years of centre, F = 5-10 years of centre, G = greater than 10, ? = unknown
- 12. Cross-section code Two character code; first character, A = whole roundwood, B = half round, C quartered, D radial/split plank, E tangential/sawn plank. second character, 1 untrimmed, 2 trimmed, X irregularly trimmed. or, X = core /unclassifiable, ? unknown/unrecorded
- 13. Major dimension whole number in mm, 0 if unrecorded or mean
- 14. Minor dimension whole number in mm, 0 if unrecorded or mean
- 15. Unmeasured inner rings single character+whole number; use pith codes + number of rings or, H = heartwood, N = none
- 16. Unmeasured outer rings single character+whole number; use edges code + number of rings except that S = sapwood with no edge and V is the spring felling equivalent other codes are, H = heartwood with no edge, N = none
- 17. Group/Phase free form text not including , " () up to 14 characters
- 18. Short title free form text not including , " () up to 8 characters
- 19. Period single character; C = modern, P = post medieval, M = medieval, S = Saxon, R = Roman, A = pre Roman, 2 = duplicate e.g. repeat measure, B = multiperiod e.g. long master, ? = unknown
- 20. ITRDB species code 4 character code refer to ITRDB species codes
- 21. Interpretation and anatomical notes ? =no interpretation/notes. The interpretation and the anatomical notes can be in any order but each must consist of three parts, a single character A or I for anatomy or interpretation, a separator , for interpretations the date of the start, for anatomy the ringno, a separator , for anatomy the anatomical code for interpretations P for plus, 0 for felled and a number for the length of the range, where more than one record is present these are separated by , there must not be a terminal separator and each record must consist of the tree parts. The anatomical codings can be anything of a single character but supported usage is based on Hans-Hubert Leuschners anatomical codes; D = Density Band, R = Reaction Wood, L = Light Latewood, H = Dense Latewood, F = Frost Ring, K = Small Earlywood Vessels oak, G = Great Latewood Vessels oak, T = Wound Tissue, N = Narrow Latewood, A = Light Latewood End, P = Narrow and Light Latewood, Q = Narrow and Dense Latewood
- 22. Data type single character; D = ring widths, E = early-wood widths only, L = late-wood widths only, R = late+early wood widths (i.e. reverse of normal rings), I = minimum density, A = maximum density, S = early, late; (i.e. sequentially and separately), M = mixed (?means of others)

The remaining lines contain the data:

- For each width (equivalent to the value of length) the individual increments etc. if a C X T or W type mean. No negatives or zeros
- Check field Single character H
- For each width the individual weightings of the mean sequences. If an X or W type mean. No negatives or zeros.
- Check field Single character R
- For each width the number of individual series with rising values. No negatives or zeros.
- Check field Single character F
- For each width the number of individual series with falling values. No negatives.

O.2. Dating

The format copes with the problem of the non-existent year 0AD/BC by adding 10000 to all year values. Therefore:

Year	Value in file
1AD	10001
1BC	10000
9999BC	2
10000BC	1

O.3. Example file

```
Ship wreck 4 timber mean
   170
2
   10784
4
   W
7
   made PB 22/6/2004
8
10
12
   0
13
   0
14
15
16
   Ν
   Example
18
   QUSP
20
21
   D
   391
23
   454
   309
26 314
```

```
27 | 270 | 28 | 273 | 29 | 229 | 30 | 319 | 31 | 267 | 32 | 276 | 33 | 128 | 34 | 163 | 35 | 221 | 36 | 269 | 37 | 214 | 38 | 201 | 39 | 218 | 40 | 199 | 41 | 198 | 42 | 209 | 43 | 156 | 44 | 177 | 45 | ...
```

P. Topham

Format name	Topham
Other name(s)	Instrument format
Type	Text file
Extension(s)	txt
Read/write support	Read and write
Reference implementation	
Data / metadata	Data only
Calendar type	n/a
Absolute dating support	No
Undated series support	Yes
Relative dating support	No
Multi series support	No
Original designer	John Topham

P.1. Description

The Topham format is probably the most simplistic of formats consisting of just a column of decimal data values and no metadata whatsoever. Each data value is a decimal ring width in millimetres.

P.2. Example file

```
1 3.42

2 3.38

3 3.34

4 4.09

5 3.62

6 3.08

7 3.60

8 2.64

9 3.25

10 3.18

11 3.42

12 3.38

13 ...
```

Q. TRiDaS

Format name TRiDaS

Other name(s) Tree-Ring Data Standard, TRiDaS XML

Type Text file Extension(s) xml

Read/write support Read and write Reference implementation TRICYCLE

Data / metadata Data and structured metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support Yes
Relative dating support Yes
Multi series support Yes

Original designer Esther Jansma, Peter Brewer and Ivo Zandhuis

Q.1. Description

TRiDaS (Tree-Ring Data Standard see http://www.tridas.org) is a data format designed by over 80 dendrochronologists, computer scientists and users of dendrochronological data from a variety of associated fields as part of the DCCD project and the Dendro Data Standard forum. It is designed to accurately represent any dendro data and metadata and it is hoped over time the dendro community will accept TRiDaS as the de facto standard for all dendro data.

The format uses extensible markup language (XML) which means the standard can be extended and evolve as future needs change. The format is structured around the eight data entities described below:

A project is defined by a laboratory and encompasses dendrochronological research of a particular object or group of objects. Examples include: the dating of a building; the research of forest dynamics in a stand of living trees; the dating of all Rembrandt paintings in a museum. What is considered a "project" is up to the laboratory performing the research. It could be the dating of a group of objects, but the laboratory can also decide to define a separate project for each object. Therefore, a project can have one or more objects associated with it.

An object is the item to be investigated. Examples include: violin; excavation site; painting on a wooden panel; water well; church; carving; ship; forest. An object could also be more specific, for example: mast of a ship; roof of a church. Depending on the object

type various descriptions are made possible. An object can have one or more elements and can also refer to another (sub) object. For instance a single file may contain three objects: an archaeological site object, within which there is a building object, within which there is a beam object. The list of possible object types is extensible and is thus flexible enough to incorporate the diversity of data required by the dendro community. Only information that is essential for dendrochronological research is recorded here. Other related data may be provided in the form of a link to an external database such as a museum catalogue.

- An element is a piece of wood originating from a single tree. Examples include: one plank of a water well; a single wooden panel in a painting; the left-hand back plate of a violin; one beam in a roof; a tree trunk preserved in the soil; a living tree. The element is a specific part of exactly one object or sub object. An object will often consist of more than one element, e.g., when dealing with the staves (elements) of a barrel (object). One or more samples can be taken from an element and an element may be dated using one or more derivedSeries.
- A sample is a physical specimen or non-physical representation of an element. Examples include: core from a living tree; core from a rafter in a church roof; piece of charcoal from an archaeological trench; slice from a pile used in a pile foundation; wax imprint of the outer end of a plank; photo of a back plate of a string instrument. Note that a sample always exists and that it can either be physical (e.g. a core) or representative (e.g. a picture). A sample is taken from exactly one element and can be represented by one or more radii.
- **A radius** is a line from pith to bark along which the measurements are taken. A radius is derived from exactly one sample. It can be measured more than once resulting in multiple measurementSeries.
- A measurementSeries is a series of direct, raw measurements along a radius. A single measurementSeries can be standardised or a collection of measurementSeries can be combined into a derived- Series. The measurements themselves are stored separately as values.
- A derivedSeries is a calculated series of values and is a minor modification of the "v-series" concept proposed by Brewer et al. (2010). Examples include: index; average of a collection of measurementSeries such as a chronology. A derivedSeries is derived from one or more measurementSeries and has multiple values associated with it.
- **A value** is the result of a single ring measurement. Examples include: total ring width; earlywood width; latewood width. The values are related to a measurementSeries or a derivedSeries. In case of a measurementSeries the variable and its measurement unit (e.g. microns, 1/100th mm etc) are recorded as well.

For a full description of the standard see Jansma et al. (2010).

Q.2. Example file

```
<createdTimestamp certainty="exact">1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z/createdTimestamp>
8
            <lastModifiedTimestamp certainty="exact">1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z/lastModifiedTimestamp>
9
            <type>Dating</type>
10
            <description>Our key long–range goal is to build long multi–millennial scale tree–ring
11
                chronologies in the Aegean and Near East that will extend from the present to the
12
                 early Holocene to cover, broadly speaking, the last 10,000 years of human and
13
                environmental history. Our raison d'etre is to provide a dating method for the
14
                     study
                of history and prehistory in the Aegean that is accurate to the year. This kind of precision has, up to now, been lacking in ancient studies of this area. Indeed, few
15
16
                 archaeological problems stimulate as much rancor as chronology, especially that of
17
                the Eastern Mediterranean. The work of the Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology
18
                Project aims to help to bring some kind of rational and neutral order to Aegean and
19
                Near Eastern chronology from the Neolithic to the present. </description>
20
21
            <laboratory>
                <name>Malcolm and Carolyn Weiner Laboratory for Aegean and Near Eastern
22
                     Dendrochronology < /name>
23
                    <addressLine1>B48 Goldwin Smith Hall </addressLine1>
24
25
                     <addressLine2>Cornell University</addressLine2>
                    <cityOrTown>Ithaca</cityOrTown>
26
27
                    <stateProvinceRegion>NY</stateProvinceRegion>
                     <postalCode>14853</postalCode>
28
                     <country>USA</country>
29
                 </address>
30
            </laboratory>
31
            <category>Archaeology</category>
32
            <investigator>Peter I Kuniholm</investigator>
33
            <period>1976-present</period>
34
35
            <reference>reference1</reference>
            <object>
36
                <title>White Tower, Thessaloniki</title>
<identifier domain="dendro.cornell.edu"</pre>
37
38
                    >28acb483-f337-412f-a063-59d911c37594</identifier>
39
                <createdTimestamp certainty="exact">1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z</createdTimestamp>
40
                <lastModifiedTimestamp certainty="exact">1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z
41
                     lastModifiedTimestamp>
                <type normalStd="Corina Dictionary" normalld="4" normal="Building">Building </type>
42
                <description>The White Tower of Thessaloniki was originally constructed by the
43
                     Ottomans
                     to fortify the city's harbour.</description>
45
                     <coverageTemporal>Ottoman</coverageTemporal>
46
                     <coverageTemporalFoundation>Stylistic</coverageTemporalFoundation>
47
                </coverage>
48
49
                <location>
                     <locationGeometry xmlns:gml="http://www.opengis.net/gml">
50
                         <qml:Point srsName="urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG:6.6:4326">
51
                             <gml:pos>40.6263 22.9485/gml:pos>
52
                         </gml:Point>
53
                    </locationGeometry>
54
                    <locationPrecision>20</locationPrecision>
55
                    <locationComment>Thessaloniki, Greece/locationComment>
56
                </location>
57
58
                <object>
                    <title>Fourth floor</title>
59
                    <type>Floor</type>
60
61
                     <element>
                         <title>C-TWT-65</title>
62
                         <identifier domain="dendro.cornell.edu"
63
                             >89dbd409-03a3-42a0-9391-62c6be7009ad</identifier>
64
                         <createdTimestamp certainty="exact">1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z
65
                              createdTimestamp>
                         <lastModifiedTimestamp certainty="exact"</pre>
66
                             >1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z</lastModifiedTimestamp>
```

```
<type normalStd="Corina Dictionary" normalId="3" normal="Rafter">Rafter/
68
                         <description>15th Rafter from the south</description>
69
                         <taxon normalStd="Catalogue of Life Annual Checklist 2008" normal="Quercus"</pre>
70
                              normalId="49139">Quercus sp.</taxon>
71
                         <dimensions>
72
                              <unit normalTridas="metres"/>
73
                              <height>1</height>
74
                              <width>1</width>
75
                              <depth>1</depth>
76
                         </dimensions>
77
                         <authenticity>Original</authenticity>
78
                         <sample>
79
                              <title>C-TWT-65-A</title>
80
                              <identifier domain="dendro.cornell.edu"
81
                                  >ff688357-b2d4-4394-a21a-90696cd4558c</identifier>
82
                              <createdTimestamp certainty="exact'</pre>
83
                                  >1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z</createdTimestamp>
84
                              <lastModifiedTimestamp certainty="exact"</pre>
85
86
                                  >1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z</lastModifiedTimestamp>
                              <type normal="Corina Dictionary" normalId="1" normalStd="Section"
87
                                  >Section</type>
88
                              <samplingDate certainty="exact">1981-07-25</samplingDate>
89
                              <state>Dry</state>
90
                              <radius>
                                  <title>C-TWT-65-A-B</title>
92
                                  <identifier domain="dendro.cornell.edu"
93
                                      >5b7baa8b-cd4e-4b3b-88fa-82939420e544</identifier>
94
                                  <createdTimestamp certainty="exact"</pre>
95
                                      >2006-05-04T18:13:51.0Z</createdTimestamp>
96
                                  <lastModifiedTimestamp certainty="exact"</pre>
97
                                      >2006-05-04T18:13:51.0Z</lastModifiedTimestamp>
98
99
                                  <woodCompleteness>
                                      <pith presence="absent"/>
100
                                      <heartwood presence="incomplete"/>
101
                                      <sapwood presence="complete"/>
102
                                      <bark presence="present"/>
103
                                  </woodCompleteness>
104
105
                                  <measurementSeries>
                                      <title>C-TWT-65-A-B-A</title>
106
                                      <identifier domain="dendro.cornell.edu"
107
                                           >8c50234e-8eda-41bb-b578-01cc881d1ea1</identifier>
108
                                      <createdTimestamp certainty="exact"</pre>
109
                                          >1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z</createdTimestamp>
                                      <lastModifiedTimestamp certainty="exact"</pre>
111
                                          >1997-02-01T14:13:51.0Z</lastModifiedTimestamp>
112
                                      <analyst>Laura Steele</analyst>
113
                                      <dendrochronologist>Peter I Kuniholm</dendrochronologist>
114
                                      <measuringMethod normalStd="Corina Dictionary" normalId="1"</pre>
115
                                          >Measuring platform</measuringMethod>
116
                                      <interpretation>
117
                                           <firstYear suffix="AD">1254</firstYear>
118
                                           <statFoundation>
119
120
                                               <statValue>8.3</statValue>
                                               <type>t-score</type>
121
                                               <usedSoftware>Corina 2.10</usedSoftware>
122
                                           </statFoundation>
123
                                           <deathYear suffix="AD">1535</deathYear>
124
                                           covenancePossibly from the region of Serres
125
                                      </interpretation>
126
127
                                           <variable normalTridas="Ring width"/>
128
                                           <unit normalTridas="1/100th millimetres"/>
129
                                           <value value="54"/>
130
                                           <value value="111"/>
131
                                           <value value="71"/>
132
```

```
<value value="40"/>
<value value="56"/>
133
134
                                                     </values>
135
    </radi

</sample>

</element>

</object>

</project>

</tridas>
                                               </measurementSeries>
136
                                         </radius>
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
```

R. TRIMS

Format name	TRIMS
Other name(s)	None known
Type	Text file
Extension(s)	.rw
Read/write support	Read and write
Reference implementation	
Data / metadata	Data only
Calendar type	Gregorian
Absolute dating support	Yes
Undated series support	Yes
Relative dating support	No
Multi series support	No
Original designer	Unknown

This is a simple data only text file format. These files were originally produced using the Henson rotary micrometer measuring stages but have largely been phased out.

- Line 1 Initials of user that created the series
- Line 2 Date the file was created in dd/MM/YY format
- Line 3 Year of first data value (0 treated as undated series)
- Line 4+ Space character followed by an integer data value in 1/100th mm
- Final line Space character + 999 denoting end of series.

R.1. Example file

S. Tucson

Format name Tucson

Other name(s) Decadal, RWL, CRN, ITRDB, Time series format, TSF

Type Text file

Extension(s) Various including tuc, rwl, dec, crn

Read/write support Read and write Reference implementation COFECHA

Data / metadata Data with some structured metadata, however,

standardisation of metadata is very poor resulting in metadata often being little more than free text

comments

Calendar type Astronomical

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support No
Relative dating support No
Multi series support Yes

Original designer Richard Holmes

S.1. Description

The Tucson format is perhaps the most widely used dendro data format. Unfortunately it seems there was never definitive documentation. Support for the format has been incorporated into a number of dendro applications but without format documentation there are variations in these implementations resulting in quite a lot of subtle differences in files. The often tight association between the Dendro Program Library (DPL) and the ITRDB means that perhaps the most definitive documentation for the format is the ITRDB website.

The Tucson format is best considered as covering two different sub-formats which are often referred to by their file extensions (RWL and CRN). RWL files are used for storing ring-width data, whereas CRN files are used for storing chronologies.

The ITRDB website includes detailed information on how to include structured metadata in Tucson format files. Unfortunately there are no tools for creating and/or validating Tucson files so the vast majority of files circulating in the community today (including those in the ITRDB) do not adhere to these standards.

S.2. RWL files

Tucson RWL files begin with three lines of metadata. Strictly these lines should contain structured metadata, but with no software to assist in this, users either only partially stick to these rules, or reject them entirely instead using the three lines as free-text comment lines. The metadata should be set out as follows:

- Line 1 Chars 1-6 Site ID
- Line 1 Chars 10-61 Site Name
- Line 1 Chars 62-65 Species Code followed by optional ID number
- Line 2 Chars 1-6 Site ID
- Line 2 Chars 10-22 State/Country
- Line 2 Chars 23-30 Species
- Line 2 Chars 41-45 Elevation
- Line 2 Chars 48-57 Lat-Long in degrees and minutes, ddmm or dddmm
- Line 2 Chars 68-76 1st and last Year
- Line 3 Chars 1-6 Site ID
- Line 3 Chars 10-72 Lead Investigator
- Line 3 Chars 73-80 comp. date

Then follows the data lines which are set out as follows:

- Chars 1-8 Series ID the series ID should be unique in the file so that it is clear where one series ends and another begins when multiple series are present in the same file.
- Next 4 chars Year of first value in this row.
- Ten data values consisting of a space character and 5 integers. The file and last data line for a series may have less than 10 data values so that the majority of lines begin at the start of a decade.

The final data value should be followed by a a stop marker which is either 999 or -9999. When a stop marker of 999 is used this indicates that the integer values in the file are measured in 0.01mm (1/100th mm) units, whereas if a -9999 stop marker is used the units are 0.001mm (microns). The stop marker is therefore used to indicate the end of the data series and the units the data are stored in.

There appears to be no official specification as to how missing rings should be encoded, but the standard notation seems to be to use -999 or 0.

S.3. CRN files

Tucson CRN files are used to store chronology data. In addition to each data values they also have space for a sample depth or count value to record how many values were combined to give each data value. CRN files should strictly begin with the same 3 header lines that are

described above for RWL. Like RWL files the specification is often partially adhered to and at times ignored completely.

The data lines for CRN files are quite different to RWL:

- Chars 1-6 Series ID
- Next 4 chars Year of first value in this row.
- Ten data value blocks consisting of four integer characters for the data value, then a space, then two integer characters for sample depth.

The stop marker in a CRN file should be 9990.

S.4. Workarounds and quirks

- No information was given as to how to handle the non-existent year OAD/BC. For data files with years all in the AD period, this is not a problem. Most dendro software seem to treat year numbers in Tucson files as using the 'Astronomical Calendar' whereby 1 = 1AD, 0=1BC, -1=2BC etc. This goes against what most dendrochronologists assume (and do) when using Tucson files. For instance most people that work entirely in the BC period use negative integers to represent BC years e.g. -5 as 5BC. With no clear specification and different people interpreting the format in different ways, there is no way of being certain what data negative year numbers in Tucson files mean.
- Tucson format places a restriction of just four characters to the year values. This means that strictly the earliest value a Tucson file can represent is -999. Some users work around this by steeling the last character of the series ID to give them five characters for the year. For example: ABCDEFG-9999. This conversely limits the series ID to 7 characters. To add to the confusion, other users have been known to add an arbitrary number (e.g. 5000) to all year numbers to overcome this problem.
- The fact that 999 is used as the stop marker for series in 1/100th mm means that Tucson files cannot store a ring value of 9.99mm. In the unlikely event that a sample should have this large a ring, it should be rounded up or down to 998 or 1000.
- Some programs appears to add padding values after the stop marker to fill the rest of the 10 data values in the row.
- Some data files seem to use 9990 as a stop marker
- Some files appears to use a full-stop character to indicate empty data values after the stop marker.
- Data values in RWL files are space delimited, however some programs use tabs instead.
- When reading Tucson files, COFECHA and ARSTAN ignore all lines that do not match the standard data line format. As such, some users have used this to enable them to include multiple comment lines in their files.
- The ITRDB documentation says they should be recorded as DDMM or DDDMM, but this along with sign (N,S,E,W,+ or -) would require 11 characters, when the Tucson specification only allows for 10. Perhaps this was due to an assumption that all places would be in the northern hemisphere? This has resulted in a large amount of variation in the way that coordinates are recorded making it extremely difficult to parse them without error. Here are some examples (including some that use 11 chars not 10):

- 4652N01101E - 4652-01101 - +4652-01101 - 465201101 - N4652E01101 - 4652 01101

S.5. Example file - raw series

3 107 3 GIERTZ 4 107011 1911 78 93 5 107011 1920 92 125 6 107011 1930 105 105 7 107011 1940 120 130	3 110 135 4 95 120 5 130 165 6 140 130	98 135 1 135 1	4652N03 110 135 80 75 140 110	5 115 5 125 0 120	1911 08 102 102 130	1959 76 110 135	
3 107 3 GIERTZ 4 107011 1911 78 93 5 107011 1920 92 125 6 107011 1930 105 105 7 107011 1940 120 130	3 43 100 5 110 135 5 95 120 0 130 165 0 140 130	93 1 98 135 1	110 135 80 75 140 110	5 115 5 125 0 120	08 102 102	76 110	
4 107011 1911 78 93 5 107011 1920 92 125 6 107011 1930 105 105 7 107011 1940 120 130	3 110 135 4 95 120 5 130 165 6 140 130	98 135 1 135 1	80 75 140 110	5 125 0 120	102 102	110	
5 107011 1920 92 125 5 107011 1930 105 105 7 107011 1940 120 130	3 110 135 4 95 120 5 130 165 6 140 130	98 135 1 135 1	80 75 140 110	5 125 0 120	102		
107011 1930 105 105 107011 1940 120 130	95 120 130 165 140 130	135 1 135 1	140 110	120			
107011 1940 120 130	130 165 140 130	135 1			130	135	
	140 130		L45 155	160		100	
		115 1) TOO	88	135	
107011 1950 140 150		113 1	130 130	110	110	135	
107011 1960 125 120	135 160	15 1	102 105	135	105	140	
107011 1970 120 115	100 110	110 9	999				
107012 1862 450 580	550 480	620 4	120 390	420			
107012 1870 360 370	300 360	470 4	460 410	430	510	500	
107012 1880 500 510	500 410	380 4	130 340	380	350	400	
107012 1890 290 260	270 320	340 3	370 330	310	240	170	
107012 1900 280 300	300 310	350 4	400 300	280	280	180	
107012 1910 190 290	270 210	230 3	300 220	360	240	260	
7 107012 1920 200 270	250 230	270 2	210 160	210	220	200	
107012 1930 170 250	200 130	140 2	210 210	180	190	180	
107012 1940 170 180	190 190	190 2	200 190	180	110	180	
107012 1950 220 230	180 220	200 2	240 220	210	240	999	

S.6. Example file - chronology

```
107089 1 Antalya, Elmali Isletmesi
                                                                   CDLI
   107089 2 Turkey
                                             1800M 3640 02955
                                                                         1370 1988
                          Cedar
   107089 3 Peter I. Kuniholm
   1070001370 567 11115 1 798
                                 11105 11407 1 398
                                                              1 543 1 490
                                                        1 436
                                                 1 445
                                                                       11020
   1070001380 127
                    1 39
                                  1 69
                           1 29
                                         1 178
                                                        1 227
                                                                1 510
                                                                              11120
                    11310
                           1 979
   10700013901390
                                  11585
                                         11111
                                                 1 444
                                                        1 214
                                                                1 520
                                                                       1 275
                    1 371
                           1 567
                                  1 711
                                          1 835
                                                 1 687
   1070001400 153
                                                        1 322
                                                                1 291
                                                                       1 291
                           1 557
   1070001410 168
                    1 378
                                  1 410
                                          1 315
                                                 1 202
                                                        1 531
                                                                1 765
                                                                       1 797
                                                                              1 840
   1070001420 440
                    1 774
                           1 946
                                  1 838
                                          1
                                            397
                                                 1 380
                                                        1 206
                                                                1 510
                                                                       1 695
                                                                              1 521
                    1 978
                           1 967
                                  1 857
   1070001430 461
                                         1 978
                                                 1 733
                                                        1 522
                                                                1 333
                                                                       1 577
10
                           1 932
   1070001440 730
                    1 752
                                  1 955
                                          1 898
                                                 1 629
                                                        11170
                                                                1 738
                                                                       1 920
                                                                              1 363
   1070001450 863
                    1 896
                           1 965
                                  1 390
                                          1 172
                                                        1 69
                                                                1 209
                                                 1 126
                                                                       1 313
12
                                          11364
                                                                       11369
   10700014601255
                    11220
                           11364
                                  11035
                                                        11364
                                                 11282
                                                                11611
                                                                              11273
13
   10700014701797
                    12035
                           11821
                                  11927
                                          11819
                                                 11807
                                                        11464
                                                                21421
                                                                       21009
                                                                              21089
                                                                                      2
                    21040
                           21404
                                  2 955
                                          21291
                                                 2 982
                                                        21186
                                                                21042
15
   10700014801042
                                                                       2 728
                                                                              2 781
                                                                                      2
                    21040
   1070001490 800
                           2 503
                                  2 869
                                          21387
                                                 21365
                                                        21574
                                                                21591
                                                                       22178
                                                                              21594
   10700015001629
                    31282
                           31126
                                  31409
                                          31433
                                                 31406
                                                        31239
                                                                31479
                                                                       3 990
                                                                              31063
                                                        31171
                                                                       31005
   10700015101026
                    31035
                           31175
                                  31217
                                          31500
                                                 31358
                                                                31140
                                                                              31340
                                                                                      3
18
                                                                3 982
                    31164
                           31283
                                  31496
                                          31439
                                                        31335
                                                                       3 973
                                                                              31147
19
   10700015201225
                                                 31603
                                                                                      3
   10700015301086
                    31146
                           41403
                                  41454
                                          41209
                                                 41451
                                                        41292
                                                                4 964
                                                                       41003
                                                                              41289
   1070001540 895
                    4 951
                           4 745
                                  4 835
                                          4 800
                                                 41182
                                                        4 952
                                                                41097
                                                                       4 973
                                                                              4 973
   10700015501158
                    41370
                           41245
                                  41392
                                          41215
                                                 41047
                                                        51133
                                                                5 847
                                                                       5 961
                                                                              51295
   10700015601287
                    51082
                           5 899
                                  51012
                                          51195
                                                 51409
                                                        51107
                                                                5 962
                                                                       5 970
                                                                              51031
23
                                                 51209
                    51028
                           51206
                                                        51090
                                                                              51019
   1070001570 990
                                                                       51261
                                  51092
                                          51414
                                                                51265
                                                                                      5
   1070001580 791
                    5 995
                           5 956
                                  5 933
                                          61144
                                                 61022
                                                        61001
                                                                61007
                                                                       61097
                                                                              61290
                                  71151 71032
   10700015901263
                    6 902
                           71002
                                                 8 968
                                                        8 592
                                                               8 940
                                                                       8 936
                                                                              81131
```

```
10700016001098 81128 81334 81255 91136 91097 101273 101075 10 952 10 897 10
   1070001610 915 10 991 10 735 10 708 10 627 10 848 101010 10 872 10 959 101138 10
   10700016201173\ 101122\ 101191\ 101146\ 10\ 928\ 10\ 820\ 10\ 935\ 10\ 741\ 10\ 812\ 101126\ 10
   10700016301123 10 781 101111 101054 101275 101052 101068 101049 101016 10 970 10
   10700016401093 101159 101023 101159 101060 101117 101314 10 843 101057 101040 10
31
   10700016501030 \ 101268 \ 10 \ 971 \ 101059 \ 101078 \ 101170 \ 101159 \ 101388 \ 101194 \ 101260 \ 10
    1070001660 917 101222 101052 101165 101325 101608 101161 121181 12 931 12 992 12
   1070001670 750 12 675 12 614 12 638 12 624 12 600 12 506 12 681 12 887 12 708 12
34
   1070001680\ 797\ 12\ 940\ 12\ 955\ 12\ 886\ 12\ 878\ 12\ 970\ 12\ 916\ 12\ 861\ 12\ 861\ 121021\ 13
    1070001690 928 13 961 131043 13 936 13 939 131003 13 619 13 846 13 838 13 822 13
36
   1070001700 717 13 699 14 746 14 900 141022 14 781 14 968 141028 141051 141341 14
37
   1070001710 980 14 817 14 718 14 642 14 554 14 589 14 637 14 677 16 710 16 877 16
   1070001720 930 16 931 16 718 16 721 16 616 16 576 16 519 16 790 161046 161067 16
39
   10700017301047 171141 181080 181128 181144 181112 191066 191252 19 971 191076 19
   10700017401284 191242 191001 191145 191219 191162 19 576 20 979 231148 231062 23
   10700017501119 231255 231267 231352 231397 231487 231116 231092 231150 23 938 23
42
   10700017601118 241240 241258 241023 24 971 241071 241124 241225 241135 241114 24
    10700017701072 241171 24 853 24 964 241075 24 820 241154 241059 241270 241022 24
44
   10700017801098 24 903 241038 241147 241141 241162 24 782 241221 241424 241208 24 1070001790 974 241265 241256 241281 241166 241580 24 889 24 955 241158 241101 24
45
   1070001800 949 24 990 24 813 24 758 24 821 24 914 24 889 24 999 24 991 241163 24
47
48
   10700018101068 241184 24 852 24 870 241037 241070 241132 241047 24 978 24 852 24
    1070001820 839 241063 241045 24 957 24 958 24 997 24 841 241209 241053 241013 24
   1070001830 920 241103 241151 241166 24 850 24 962 24 944 24 871 24 989 24 906 24
   1070001840 697 24 973 24 779 24 647 24 689 24 731 24 981 24 709 24 949 24 580 24 1070001850 619 24 345 24 545 24 688 24 723 241046 24 738 24 785 24 742 24 815 24
52
   1070001860 842 241015 24 888 24 884 24 792 24 594 24 902 24 885 24 841 24 770 24
53
   1070001870 822 24 710 24 838 24 783 24 697 24 768 24 515 24 670 24 855 24 793 24
   10700018801021 25 932 25 799 25 902 251038 251017 25 739 25 750 25 963 251149 25 1070001890 798 24 871 24 870 24 625 24 772 24 827 241046 241182 24 701 24 704 24
55
   1070001900 977 241237 241249 241162 241118 241007 241271 241123 241116 241045 24
   10700019101167 24 827 24 482 24 952 241370 241260 24 783 241169 241096 241108 24 10700019201387 241484 241293 241182 241282 241527 241261 241146 24 920 24 859 24
58
   10700019301235 241335 24 799 24 819 241000 24 763 241111 241019 24 916 241252 24
60
   10700019401537 241387 231217 23 929 23 685 23 894 231106 231123 231089 23 896 23 10700019501384 231172 231151 231130 231244 231187 231118 231144 231268 231245 23
61
   10700019601547 231015 231208 231203 231109 23 602 23 690 23 684 23 901 23 968 23
63
   1070001970 963 231095 231368 231069 231084 21 936 191146 191362 191288 191572 19
10700019801034 19 870 191186 191047 19 968 191089 191272 191231 191083 189990 0
```

T. Tucson Compact

Format name Tucson Compact

Other name(s) Compact
Type Text file
Extension(s) rwm

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation Various DPL programs including FMT

Data / metadata Data only
Calendar type Astronomical

Absolute dating support Yes
Undated series support No
Relative dating support No
Multi series support Yes

Original designer Richard Holmes

T.1. Description

The Tucson Compact format was design by Richard Holmes for use with a number of the applications in the Dendro Program Library (DPL). Holmes designed it as a space saving alternative to the standard Tucson format at a time when disk space was expensive. The format never really caught on, perhaps due to the complexity and variability of the format.

The key feature of Tucson Compact format is the inclusion of a code that describes the layout of the data within the series. This code means that only the required amount of space is allocated to each data value in the text file with little wastage. No space is provided for metadata.

Tucson Compact files can contain one or more series of data so the description of a data series below can be repeated multiple times in a single file. All lines should be 80 characters long and the first line of a series is denoted by a tilde () in the final column. This meta line contains four fields:

- Chars 0-9 = number of data values terminated with =N
- Chars 11-19 = start year terminated with =I
- Chars 21-68 = series title
- Chars 69-79 = fortran format descriptor
- Char 80 = Tilde marker

The Fortran format descriptor in the example below is -2(26F3.0). The constituent parts are as follows:

- -2 = this is the scaling factor for the data values. In this case -2 = 10-2 = 0.01. Please note that in the Convert5 program this scaling factor is only read once in the first header line so files with multiple series each with different scaling factors will read incorrectly.
- 26F = means there are 26 values in each line
- 3.0 = means that each data value should be read as 3 integer values

The example below therefore means there are 26 data values per line each consisting of 3 digits which should be interpreted by multiplying by 0.01 (i.e. values are in 1/10ths mm).

T.2. Example file

U. VFormat

Format name VFormat
Other name(s) OJ Format
Type Text file

Extension(s) Various depending on data type but commonly .!oj

Read/write support Read and write

Reference implementation VFormat

Data / metadata Data with some structure metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Multi series support
Yes
Yes

Original designer Thomas Reimer and Hans-Hubert Leuschner

U.1. Description

A relatively extensive format which includes highly encoded header lines for metadata. VFormat files have an array of file extensions depending on the type of data the files contain.

VFormat files can contain multiple data series. Each series contains 2-4 header lines followed by a number of data lines. The metadata fields are encoded into the header lines in specific character positions. In line 1 the character positions are as follows:

- 1-12 = Series identifier. The series identifier also determines the filename. If there is just one series in the file then the series identifier will be the same as the filename. For files with multiple series, the filename will use characters 1-7 of the series identifiers that are the same throughout the file with the remaining (different) characters replaced by an underscore. The 8th character of the filename would contain a running number for files that would otherwise be named the same. The series identifier is made up of the following characters:
 - 1 = Code representing the project or country
 - 2 = Code representing the region of ecological area
 - 3-4 = Code number for sample site (optionally encoded using hexadecimal or hexatresimal to enable values greater than 99).
 - 5-6 = Series/tree number (optionally encoded using hexadecimal or hexatresimal to enable values greater than 99).
 - 7 = Height code encoded as follows: 1 = 1m, 2=2m, 9=9m, A=10m, B=11m, S = Lumber height 30cm, T = breast height =130cm.

- 8 = Running number if several series have the same values in columns 1-7.
- 9 = Fixed as a dot character
- 10 = Either! (single), % (partial), # (mean curves or chronologies)
- 11 = Code for statistical treatment. One of F (frequency filtered series); I (index); M (mean); O (original); P (pointer-year stat); Q (cluster-pointer-year stat); R (residual); S (moving deviation or variance); T (trend, fitted curve, model); W (wuchswert); X (series with standardized running mean and variance); Z (central moment, deviation or variance between several series).
- 12 = Code for the measured parameter. One of D (mean density); F (earlywood width); G (maximum density); J (ring width); K (minimum density); P (percentage latewood); S (width of latewood).
- 13-15 Measurement units
- 16-20 Length of series
- 21-24 Species either encoded using ITRDB taxon codes or by using the first two letters of the genus and species.
- 25-30 Year of the last ring
- 31-50 Description
- 51-58 Measurement date (ddMMyy or ddMMyyyy)
- 59-60 Initials of author
- 61-68 Last modified date (ddMMyy or ddMMyyyy)
- 69-70 VFormat version identifier (00,01 etc)
- 71-73 Estimated number of missing rings as the start of the series
- 74-75 Standard error of this estimate (. if unknown)
- 76-78 Estimated number of missing rings at the end of the series
- 79-80 Standard error of this estimate (. if unknown)

The second data line is a free text comment up to 80 characters.

VFormat files from version 10 onwards then contain a third header line. This contains 8 floating point numbers of 10 digits each. These represent:

- Longitude
- Latitude
- Altitude
- Height of the tree's measurement
- Four other user definable numbers

VFormat files from version 20 onwards contain a forth header line. This is of the same format as line 3 but each of the values is user definable.

Following the 2-4 header lines come the data lines. These lines are made up of 10 data fields each containing 8 characters. Each data field is made up as follows:

- Two character code for validity and importance:
 - space = full validity
 - ! = not yet used
 - " = not yet used
 - # = not yet used
 - \$ = no validity for long-term evaluations

- % = no validity for single-value evaluations
- & = no validity except for cumulative stats
- ' = no validity at all, unknown value

The second character is a pseudo-binary character used to define a weighting factor. For full details of the complex method for calculating this weighting factor see the VFormat documentation.

- One character user definable code for recording information about the data value
- Five digit floating point data value which is divided by 100 for interpretation

U.2. Example file

1	G1101020.!OJmm		81Qusp 1510FLA-02 32 /572			72	HL01.04.9002 810 10 .				
2	G1101020			/_							
3	281	221	225	169	178	197	126	103	112	130	
4	132	207	176	175	126	150	99	131	187	204	
5	218	172	202	115	135	130	196	135	142	129	
6	144	116	92	71	109	120	137	98	86	117	
7	64	79	72	61	62	82	75	81	83	69	
8	83	66	84	95	85	94	87	99	92	109	
9	150	108	70	113	119	120	122	107	111	114	
10	123	145	112	145	164	158	122	177	155	182	
11	153										
12				1516FLA-0	05 13 /5	86	ŀ	HL01.04.9	002 1510) 13 .	
13	G1101050										
14	448	286	341	213	346	371	745	719	580	466	
15	487	353	279	323	422	436	351	238	135	172	
16	179	210	277	145	165	261	263	190	194	183	
17	127	110	144	189	135	154	217	110	115	99	
18	106	101	106	198	191	185	185	160	112	152	
19	93	95	83	176	165	193	139	101	93	113	
20	85	145	174	157	132	130	74	52	114	138	
21	174	132	144	125	83	124	118	127	150	189	
22	152	133	117	91	104	96	56	90	130	126	
23	103	163	92	103	174	99	117	85	123	116	
24	147	127	145	133	155	144	114	115	121	111	
25	174	113	112	89	99	130	111	104	164	110	
26	139										

V. WinDENDRO

Format name WinDENDRO

Other name(s)

Type Text file Extension(s) txt

Read/write support Read only Reference implementation WinDENDRO

Data / metadata Data with some structured metadata

Calendar type Gregorian

Absolute dating support
Undated series support
Relative dating support
Multi series support
Yes
Yes

Original designer Regent Instruments

V.1. Description

WinDENDRO format is a dendro text file format designed by Regent Instruments for their WinDENDRO software. Regent Instruments claims the format is proprietary. Although it is unclear whether such a claim is legally binding for a plain text file, the authors of Dendro-FilelOLib have decided to comply by not implementing a WinDENDRO format writer. However, in the interests of the dendro community and to ensure users can gain access to their data, DendroFilelOLib does include support for reading WinDENDRO format files.

WinDENDRO files differ from most other formats in that they contain a great deal of information specific to the image used to measure the sample. The WinDENDRO software allows users to measure ring widths from scans or photographs of samples rather than by using a traditional measuring platform.

WinDENDRO files are really just tab-delimited text files with data in columns in a specific order with a few additional header lines.

Line 1 should contain 8 tab-delimited fields

- Field 1 = WINDENDRO
- Field 2 = WinDENDRO file format version number, either 3 or 4

- Field 3 = Orientation of the data: R = in rows; C = in columns. All WinDENDRO files are in rows
- Field 4 = The column number where the data values begin. For version 3 files this is 13 and version 4 files this is 36
- Field 5 = The direction the data is recording in: P = pith to bark; B = bark to pith
- Field 6 = Whether the data is recorded incrementally (I) or cumulatively (C). WinDEN-DRO files are always incremental.
- Field 7 = Whether the bark width has been measured (Y or N). If yes, then there will be one more data value than there are rings
- Field 8 = RING

Line 2 contains the field names. For version 3 files these are:

- TreeName The name of the tree being measured
- Path identification ID of the path along which the series is measured
- Site identification Name of the site from which the tree was taken
- YearLastRing Year of the last ring in the series
- Sapwood Distance (in mm) from the start of the sample to the start of the sapwood.
- Tree height Height of tree in metres
- Tree age Age of the tree. If unknown this should be 0, then it is assumed to be equal to the number of rings
- SectionHeight Height up the tree in metres at which the sample was taken
- User variable User defined variable must be numerical
- RingCount Number of rings the series contains
- DataType Keyword indicating the type of data measured. This can be: RINGWIDTH; EARLYWIDTH; LATEWIDTH; EARLYWIDTH%; LATEWIDTH%; DENSITY; EARLYDENSITY; LATEDENSITY; MAXDENSITY; MINDENSITY; RINGANGLE.
- OffsetToNext The number of lines to skip to go to the next data line of the same type. For instance a file can contain earlywood and latewood data for multiple samples. If this is the case then each sample will have two rows, one for each variable, and the OffsetToNext field will be 1.

In additional to these fields, version 4 files also include the following:

- ImageName The filename for the image used to do this analysis. If the image was taken directly from the scanner or camera then this field will be SCANNER
- Analysis Date Time Date and time the measurements were initially saved to disk in format dd/mm/YYYY HH:mm
- Acquisition Date Time Date and time the image file was acquired in format dd/m-m/YYYY HH:mm
- Modified Date Time Date and time the file was last modified in format dd/mm/YYYY HH:mm
- ImageSize H V NBits Channel The image size in pixels followed by bits per pixel per channel (8 or 16), channel used for analysis (Grey, RGB, R G or B)
- CalibMethod XCal YCal EditedDendro Method of calibration: Intr (Intrinsic); Obj (Obj-KnownDiam). This is followed by the size of a pixel and Y or N indicating if the image has been edited in WinDENDRO
- ScannerCamera Make Model Software Details about the imaging hardware
- LensFocLength [35mm] The 35mm equivalent focal length of the imaging lens

- PathBegX BegY EndX EndY Width The coordinates for the start of the path/radius followed by the path width
- RingBoundary AutoMan Meth Precise Details about the path taken. Ring boundary Tg (tangent to ring) or Perp (perpendicular to path); Detection method A (automatic) or M (manual); Ring detection method Int (intensity differences) or T&S (teach and show); whether the 'more precise detection' method is active (Y) or not (N)
- EarlywoodDef Earlywood-latewood transition criteria
- DensActive Media Calib Density Analysis active (Y or N); Density Media setting (F negative file or photo, W wood direct xray, positive film or photo); Light calibration setting (Acq after image acquisition, Man manual; No none)
- DensNSteps MatDens Interpol Number of steps and the density of the step wedge used for calibration followed by the interpolation method used between steps: Lin (Linear) Spl (Spline)
- DensStepsThick The thickness of each step of the wedge used for density calibration
- DensStepsLightInt The light intensity of each step of the wedge determined during the light intensity calibration
- DensStepsWoodDens Equivalent wood density of each step of the wedge determined during light intensity calibration
- DiskArea Area of the sample
- DiskPerim Perimeter of the sample
- DiskAvgDiam Average diameter of the sample
- DiskFormCoef Sample area form coefficient
- CompWoodArea Total area occupied by the compression areas
- VoidArea Total area occupied by the void areas
- PathLength Length of radius measured

Lines 3+ contain the actual data and metadata, one line for each series. Following the 13 or 36 columns of metadata (depending on file version) there are x number of columns containing ring values. The values are recorded as floating point data. The units for these data values are: mm for widths; % for percentages; g/cm^3 for densities; radians for angles.

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Java Simple MVC	MIT
ODF Toolkit	Apache 2.0
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