

VII.2-DATACARD CALIBRATION SYSTEM DATACARD FILE FORMAT

The DATACARD file format is used to store time series data as ASCII records.

The maximum number of characters on each record is 80.

The contents of the records are as follows:

<u>Record</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Character Position</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-5				Comments that describe the attributes of the time series (first character is a '\$')
6	1	A12,2X	1-12	File name
	2	A4,1X	15-18	Data type code
	3	A4,1X	20-23	Data dimensions code
	4	A4,1X	25-28	Data units code
	5	I2,3X	30-31	Data time interval
	6	A12,3X	35-46	Time series identifier <u>1</u> /
	7	5A4	50-69	Time series description
7	1	I2,2X	1-2	First month of data <u>2</u> /
	2	I4,1X	5-8	First year of data
	3	I2,3X	10-11	Last month of data
	4	I4,1X	15-18	Last year of data
	5	I2,3X	20-21	Number of data values on each record
	6	A8	25-32	Format of data values
8+	1	A12	1-12	Time series identifier <u>1</u> /
	2	I2	13-14	Month of first data value on record
	3	I2	15-16	Year of first data value on record
	4	I4	17-20	Record sequence number <u>3</u> /
	5+	F?..?	21-?	Data values <u>4</u> / <u>5</u> /

Notes:

1/ Suggested format for NCDC data is dddd-ss-nnnn where dddd is the data type code (see Chapter I.4-DATATYPE-TS [[Hyperlink](#)]), ss is the state number (see Chapter I.6 [[Hyperlink](#)]) and nnnn is the station number.

Suggested format for USGS data is the USGS station number.

2/ The first data value in the time series is the value for the end of the first time step on the first day of the first month.

3/ The record sequence number is used only as a record counter and is not checked.

- 4/ The data values are read using a format created from the values entered in fields 5 and 6 of record 7. For example if field 5 contains '6' and field 6 contains 'F6.2' then the data values are read using a format of '6F6.2'.
- 5/ If the data is missing for a time period the value is the symbol for missing data indicated in the comments that describe the attributes of the time series (usually -999).

If the data is accumulated for one or more time periods the accumulated value is preceded by the symbol for accumulated data indicated in the comments that describe the attributes of the time series (usually -998).

There must be a data value for every time step for every day of the month.

Figure 1 is sample DATACARD file.

Figure 1. Sample DATACARD File

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          - Position -
      5   10   15   20   25   30   35   40   45   50   55   60   65   70   75   80
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
$ OUTPUT FROM DATACARD COMMAND WRITDATA OPTION
$ IDENTIFIER=PTPX-31-1055   DESCRIPTION=BREVARD, NC
$ PERIOD OF RECORD=10/1959 THRU 09/1962
$ SYMBOL FOR MISSING DATA=-999.00   SYMBOL FOR ACCUMULATED DATA=-998.00
$ TYPE=PTPX   UNITS=IN   DIMENSIONS=L   DATA TIME INTERVAL=24 HOURS
$ OUTPUT FORMAT=(3A4,2I2,I4,6F10.3)
HSD FILE 7   PTPX L   IN   24   PTPX-31-1055   BREVARD, NC
10 1959 09   1962 6   F10.3
PTPX-31-10551059 1   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.010
PTPX-31-10551059 2   1.050   1.020   1.180   1.350   0.200   0.000
PTPX-31-10551059 3   0.060   2.290   0.000   0.050   0.350   0.030
PTPX-31-10551059 4   0.000   0.000   0.080   0.210   0.750   0.070
PTPX-31-10551059 5   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.460   0.520
PTPX-31-10551059 6   0.170
PTPX-31-10551159 7   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.050   0.000
PTPX-31-10551159 8   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-10551159 9   0.000   0.030   0.070   0.020   0.120   0.020
PTPX-31-10551159 10  0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.100   1.200
PTPX-31-10551159 11  0.000   0.000   0.000   0.500   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-10551259 12  0.000   0.150   0.110   0.020   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-10551259 13  0.230   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   1.170
PTPX-31-10551259 14  0.020   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   1.280
PTPX-31-10551259 15  0.300   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-10551259 16  0.250   0.070   0.000   1.200   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-10551259 17  0.000
PTPX-31-1055 160 18   0.000   0.350   1.100   0.020   0.010   0.790
PTPX-31-1055 160 19   0.200   0.020   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 160 20   0.000   0.030   0.100   0.010   0.000   0.780
PTPX-31-1055 160 21   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 160 22   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.040   0.450   1.440
PTPX-31-1055 160 23   0.750
PTPX-31-1055 260 24   0.050   0.030   0.000   0.400   2.000   0.050
PTPX-31-1055 260 25   0.000   0.000   0.010   2.300   0.700   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 260 26   -998.000   0.500   0.000   0.450   0.000   1.150
PTPX-31-1055 260 27   0.000   0.000   0.200   0.060   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 260 28   0.600   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 360 29   0.000   0.700   1.450   0.030   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 360 30   0.000   0.000   1.000   0.200   0.200   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 360 31   0.000   0.000   0.100   -998.000   1.100   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 360 32   0.000   0.000   0.170   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 360 33   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.250   1.700
PTPX-31-1055 360 34   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 460 35   0.000   0.300   1.550   0.730   0.100   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 460 36   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 460 37   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.080
PTPX-31-1055 460 38   0.030   0.000   0.310   0.020   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 460 39   0.000   0.000   0.290   0.040   0.000   0.530
PTPX-31-1055 560 40   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 560 41   0.550   1.670   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.110
PTPX-31-1055 560 42   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 560 43   0.260   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000   0.000
PTPX-31-1055 560 44   0.030   0.000   0.470   0.040   0.000   0.370
PTPX-31-1055 560 45   0.000
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
      5   10   15   20   25   30   35   40   45   50   55   60   65   70   75   80

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