



BUFR and GRIB file formats considered harmful for data archiving

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The WMO-mandated BUFR and GRIB file formats are not suitable for data archival, due to inconsistent handling of the external tables on which the correct reading of those formats depends.

We present a partial solution to this problem, namely a web-based registry of authoritative tables, and a proposal to embed MD5 checksums in the GRIB and BUFR records. A prototype implementation will be demonstrated.

Details are at: <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/caron/papers/GRIArchivals.pdf>