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THE CDS QUICKLOOK DATA STRUCTURE (QLDS)

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**A brief description of the QuickLook Data Structure (QLDS)
used within the CDS Quicklook software project.**

The function READCDSFITS returns the information of a CDS fits file as a single anonymous structure with the following tags:

```
{
; Tags for internal use by the QuickLook software.

  QL_ID,          ; The ID of the current QLMGR
  QL_NO,          ; The registration number within the QLMGR

; Header information

  HDRTEXT        ; A string array with the original FITS header
  HEADER         ; Structure w/values of FITS header parameters (see below)

; Detector data descriptors

  DETDESC        ; Array of structures, descriptors for data in each of the
                  ; detector data windows (line windows)

; Background counts/wavelength calibration

  BACKGROUND     ; A structure w/information from the background (bias)
                  ; readout windows.
  WAVECAL        ; The wavelength calibration structure to be used with
                  ; this data. You may modify this or assign to it another
                  ; wavelength calibration (see the routine GET_WAVECAL),
                  ; if you like

; Auxiliary data:

  DEL_TIMEDATA   ; DEL_TIME data for each exposure (time in seconds since
                  ; first exposure).
  DEL_TIMEDESC   ; A descriptor for the data in DEL_TIMEDATA

  INS_XDATA     ; INS_X (pointing) data
  INS_XDESC     ; Descriptor for INS_X data array.

  INS_YDATA     ; INS_Y (pointing) data
  INS_YDESC     ; Descriptor for INS_Y data.

  OPSLBITSDATA  ; OPS (Offset Pointing System) Bits Left data.
  OPSLBITSDESC  ; Descriptor

  OPS_LDATA     ; OPS Left Data
```

OPS_LDESC ; Descriptor

OPSRBITSDATA ; OPS Bits Right data
OPSRBITSDESC ; Descriptor

OPS_RDATA ; OPS Right data
OPS_RDESC ; Descriptor

SLITBITSDATA ; Slit data
SLITBITSDESC ; Descriptor

SLIT_POSDATA ; Slit position data
SLIT_POSDESC

MIR_POSDATA ; Mirror position data
MIR_POSDESC

PTCHBITSDATA ; PITCH Bits data
PTCHBITSDESC

PITCHDATA ; PITCH data
PITCHDESC

YAW_BITSDATA ; YAW Bits data
YAW_BITSDESC

YAWDATA ; YAW data
YAWDESC

EV_LEVELDATA ; Event level data
EV_LEVELDESC

ONBOARDXDATA ; Onboard X data
ONBOARDXDESC

ONBOARDYDATA ; Onboard Y data
ONBOARDYDESC

EV_RECOGDATA ; Event recognition data
EV_RECOGDESC

EV_DETECDATA ; Event detection data

```

EV_DETECDDESC

EV_VALIDDATA ; Event valid data
EV_VALIDDESC

BKGRCDATA ; Background data (GIS only)
BKGRCDDESC

BKGPCDDATA
BKGPCDDESC

BKGULCDDATA
BKGULCDDESC
}

```

The header data (project ID, etc.) not directly connected with a detector data window or an auxiliary data block are contained in the structure, shown below with typical values:

```

{HDR,
  ANGLE          DOUBLE          -0.20999999
  CATEGORY       STRING          'Science'
  CMP_NAME       STRING          ''
  CMP_NO         LONG            0
  COMP_ERR       BYTE            0
  COMP_ID        LONG            2
  COMP_OPT       LONG            0
  DATE           STRING          '20/11/96'
  DATE_END       STRING          '1996-11-20T22:58:33.079Z'
  DATE_OBS       STRING          '1996-11-20T22:00:59.841Z'
  DETECTOR       STRING          'NIS'
  DW_ID          LONG            5
  EV_ENAB        BYTE            0
  EXPCOUNT       LONG            10
  EXPTIME        FLOAT           50.0000
  FILENAME       STRING          's5841r00.fits'
  GSET_ID        LONG            0
  INSTRUME       STRING          'CDS'
  INS_ROLL       DOUBLE          0.0000000
  INS_XO         DOUBLE          399.00000
  INS_YO         DOUBLE          54.400002
  IXWIDTH        FLOAT           20.3000

```

IYWIDTH	FLOAT	240.200
LL_ID	LONG	0
MIR_POS	LONG	124
NWINDOWS	LONG	6
NX	LONG	10
NY	LONG	1
OBJECT	STRING	'QS'
OBJ_ID	STRING	''
OBS_PROG	STRING	'NISAT_S'
OBT_END	DOUBLE	1.2272219e+09
OBT_TIME	DOUBLE	1.2272185e+09
OPSLBITS	STRING	'1011'
OPSRBITS	STRING	'1010'
OPS_L	LONG	1796
OPS_R	LONG	2189
ORIGIN	STRING	'SOHO-EOF'
PROG_NAME	STRING	'0'
PROG_ID	LONG	0
PROG_NUM	LONG	5841
RAS_ID	LONG	16
RAS_VAR	LONG	2
SCI_OBJ	STRING	'NIS QS Atlas'
SCI_SPEC	STRING	'NISAT_S/v2'
SEQ_VALID	BYTE	0
SEQ_IND	LONG	0
SER_ID	LONG	5657
SFDUADID	STRING	'ZZZZ0001'
SLIT_NUM	LONG	4
SLIT_POS	LONG	0
STUDYVAR	LONG	2
STUDY_ID	LONG	17
TELESCOP	STRING	'SOHO'
TITLE	STRING	'NIS SPECTRAL ATLAS (SPATIAL)'
TITLE_ID	STRING	'33'
TRACKING	BYTE	0
VDS_ACC	BYTE	0
VDS_MODE	LONG	2
VDS_PMCP	LONG	100
VDS_ORI	BYTE	0
WAVEMAX	DOUBLE	632.87300
WAVEMIN	DOUBLE	307.56400
XCEN	DOUBLE	398.20001

```

XSTEP          DOUBLE          2.0320001
YCEN           DOUBLE          52.900002
YSTEP          DOUBLE          0.0000000
}

```

The detector data windows are now stored by means of handles. Earlier, though, the data was accumulated into one contiguous array of the same number of dimensions as the detector data blocks. The first dimension (wavelength) was expanded to accommodate all the blocks in one array, `detdata`.

Information specific to each detector data window is stored in the array `detdesc`, with one element for each data window. These structures also contained the start and stop indices to be used when extracting detector data from the `detdata` array, in such a way that the actual data corresponding to detector data window index `W` was given by

```

DetData (DetDesc(W).ixstart(0):DetDesc.ixstop(0)    $ ;(for 1D Data)
        [ ,DetDesc(W).ixstart(1):DetDesc.ixstop(1)  $ ;(for 2D Data)
          [,DetDesc(W).ixstart(2):DetDesc.ixstop(2)]]$ ;(for 3D Data)
        )

```

It is not necessary for the general users to understand the exact functionality of the current data storage system, except that it's *highly* recommended to always use the `gt_XXX` routines to extract detector data from the QLDS. See CDS Software Note 41 for a description of these routines, or try `IDL>tftd,'gt_'` for a quick overview. Use e.g., `gt_windata()` to access the whole data block from one detector data (line)window.

The detector data descriptors contain the following tags:

```

{NISx/GISx      ; x == number of dimensions in the data set.

HANDLE          ; An IDL handle pointing to the detector data array.

IXSTART         ; Partially obsolete tags, but e.g.,
IXSTOP         ; ABS(IXSTOP)-IXSTART+1 gives you an array with the
                ; sizes of the data block. IF IXSTOP(0) IS NEGATIVE,
                ; THE DATA FROM THIS LINE WINDOW HAS NOT BEEN READ IN, AND
                ; IS THUS UNAVAILABLE}.

PADDING         ; When data windows of differing sizes (detector y dimension),
                ; such as those with full spectrum NIS data are read in,
                ; they're padded out (with MISSING values) to a uniform size.

```

```

; The original window size is given by
; ABS(IXSTOP)-IXSTART+1 - PADDING

LABEL      ; Name of the data extraction window.

UNITS      ; The units of the data. Changes according to what
; forms of calibrations have been applied to the data.

MAX        ; The maximum/minimum value of the detector data
MIN        ; from this line window.

MISSING    ; The value of pixels with no data or corrupted data.

AXES       ; String array with the names of the dimensions in the
; data array, e.g., ['WAVELNTH','SOLAR_X','SOLAR_Y',
; 'DEL_TIME']

ORIGIN     ; The starting values (values for pixel (0,0,0,0) in the
; data array) of the entities described by AXES (wavelength,
; solar x, etc).

SPACING    ; The spacing between values of the entities described by
; AXES, i.e., wavelength for pixel (1,0,5,0) is
; ORIGIN(0) + 1*SPACING(0), the solar y value is
; ORIGIN(2) + 5*SPACING(2).

ROTATION   ; Contains the rotation of each axis.
DETX      ; The detector x value for pixel (0,0,..).
BINX      ; Binning factor, detector x direction.
DETY      ; Det. y value for pixel (0,0..)(Only present for NIS data)
BINY      ; Binning factor, det. y direction (NIS only)
WAVELENGTH ; The central wavelength of the data window.
WAVEMIN   ; The minimum wavelength of the data window.
WAVEMAX   ; Maximum wavelength of the data window.
WAVEBAND  ; Which wavelength band, 1-2 for NIS, 1-4 for GIS
GR_ORDER  ; Grating order.
}

```

The auxiliary data are stored in a similar fashion, with one array for each type of data, and one descriptor structure to describe the accompanying information:

```
{AUXx,          ; x == number of dimensions

  LABEL         ; Name/type of the data
  UNITS         ;
  MISSING       ; The value used to represent missing data.
  AXES          ; Names of the dimensions in the auxiliary data.
  ORIGIN        ; See detector data descriptors.
  SPACING       ; See detector data descriptors.
  ROTATION      ; See detector data descriptors.
}
```

The presence of a certain type of auxiliary data can be checked with, for instance:

```
if N_TAGS(qlds.mirpdesc) gt 0 then ; We have some Mirror position data.
```