ER-2 X-band Doppler Radar (EXRAD) Nadir Data Description

IMPACTS 2020 Level 1B RevB Data Description

Matt L. Walker McLinden, 2020/10/09

EXRAD Level 1B data consist of calibrated radar products (reflectivity, Doppler velocity, spectrum width, normalized radar cross section) with associated time and spatial information. The data products have been processed with a running average, sampled every 0.25 seconds.

Level 1B data is in a nested HDF5 file. Groups are:

- **/Information** (for general information)
- **/Time** (for timestamps)
    - /Data
    - Information
- **/Products** (for radar data products)
    - /Data
    - /Information
- **/Navigation** (for radar position and pointing information)
    - /Data
    - /Information

This RevA data does not use HDF5 attributes, so most data fields have associated data fields describing the information and units. Look in the '/Information' subgroups. For example, the description of radar reflectivity ('/Products/Data/dBZe') is found in /Products/Information/dBZe_description. These 'units' and 'description' fields are not listed in this document.

Please contact Matt L. Walker McLinden (matthew.l.mclinden@nasa.gov) with questions or comments about this data.

Data Field	Units	Dims.	Information
/Information – General Information			
Aircraft	Text		Aircraft ('NASA ER-2')
DataContact	Text		Matthew L. Walker McLinden, ('matthew.l.mclinden@nasa.gov')
ExperimentName	Text		IMPACTS2020
FlightDate	Text		Flight date
InstrumentPI	Text		Instrument PI, ('Gerry Heymsfield, NASA/GSFC')
L1A_ProcessDate	Text		L1A File Process Date
L1B_ProcessDate	Text		L1B File Process Date
L1B_Revision	Text		
MissionPI	Text		Mission PI, ('Lynn McMurdie, University of Washington')

RadarName	Text		Radar Name
/Time/Data – Time Data			
TimeUTC	Seconds	Time	UTC profile time in Unix Epoch format (seconds since 1970). Obtained from aircraft NTP. Note that there is a profile every 0.25 seconds, however profiles are overlapping. See ResolutionHorizontal6dB for horizontal resolution.
/Time/Information – Auxiliary Time Information			
TimeUTC_01Jan2020	Seconds	1	Time of 0 UTC, Jan 01, 2020, for reference if the user does not have an easy Linux time converter
/Products/Data – Radar Product Data			
dBZe	10*log10 (mm^6 /m^3)	Range, Time	Equivalent reflectivity factor in dB with 1-sigma noise threshold applied. $\lvert K\rvert^2 = 0.92$. Use /Products/Information/MaskCoPol or /Products/Information/SNR for thresholding other than 1-sigma.
Velocity	m/s	Range, Time	Doppler velocity with aircraft motion correction and 1-sigma noise threshold applied. Positive velocity is upward. Use /Products/Information/MaskCoPol for thresholding other than 1-sigma. Possible intrusion of horizontal winds into the Doppler measurement due to slight off-nadir pointing. Check Navigation data (roll/pitch) to estimate the impact or contact the radar team.
Velocity_nubf_fix	m/s	Range, Time	Doppler velocity with aircraft motion correction and non-uniform beam filling (NUBF) correction applied. Positive velocity is upward. NUBF correction is estimated based on the local reflectivity gradient. Possible intrusion of horizontal winds into the Doppler measurement due to slight off-nadir pointing. Check Navigation data (roll/pitch) to estimate the impact or contact the radar team.

SpectrumWidth	m/s	Range, Time	Doppler velocity spectrum width estimate including aircraft motion and beamwidth. 1-sigma noise threshold applied. Use /Products/Information/MaskCoPol or /Products/Information/SNR for thresholding other than 1-sigma.
sigma0	10*log10 (m^2 /m^2)	Time	Ocean Normalized Radar Cross Section. Only valid over ocean.
/Products/Information – Radar Product Information			
AircraftMotion	m/s	Time	Estimated aircraft motion in the direction of the beam that has been subtracted from the Doppler estimate.
AntennaBeamwidth	Degrees	1	Antenna 3 dB one-way beamwidth in degrees.
AntennaSize	meters	1	Antenna Diameter (0.66 meters)
AveragedPulses	#	1	Number of averaged pulses per profile. Note that profiles are not independent, and are overlapping.
Frequency	Hz	1	Radar frequency (9.624 GHz)
GateSpacing	meters	1	Range gate spacing (18.737 meters)
MaskCoPol	Special	Range, Time	Co-polarization signal-to-noise mask. (Mask >= N) corresponds with (SNR > N-sigma) noise thresholding.
PRI	Text		'200 us / 250 us staggered'. Description of the pulse repetition interval.
Range	meters	Range	Range in meters from the aircraft of each range gate.
ResolutionHorizontal6dB	meters	Range	Approximate horizontal resolution defined as the -6 dB width of spatial weighting as a function of the antenna pattern, horizontal averaging, and range.
ResolutionVertical6dB	meters	1	Approximate vertical resolution defined as the -6 dB width of the range weighting function
SNR	W/W	Range, Time	Estimated signal-to-noise ratio.
/Navigation/Data – Navigation Data			
Drift	degrees	Time	Difference between track and heading

EastVelocity	m/s	Time	Eastward portion of velocity
Heading	degrees	Time	Aircraft heading in degrees from north. 90 degrees is Eastward.
Height	meters	Time	Aircraft height above sea level.
Latitude	degrees	Time	Latitude
Longitude	degrees	Time	Longitude
NominalDistance	meters	Time	Nominal total along-track distance calculated by integrating instantaneous velocity. Used for simple plotting.
NorthVelocity	m/s	Time	Northward portion of velocity
Pitch	degrees	Time	Pitch
Roll	degrees	Time	Roll
Track	degrees	Time	Direction of motion in degrees from north. 90 degrees is Eastward motion.
UpVelocity	m/s	Time	Upward velocity.
dxdr	m/m	Time	Data cross-track distance from aircraft per radar range. Positive is in the starboard direction.
dydr	m/m	Time	Data along-track distance from aircraft per radar range. Positive is in the forward direction.
dzdr	m/m	Time	Data vertical distance from the aircraft per radar range. Positive is in upward direction.