



#14 - Auxiliary files branch on GDAC

- Action 14
Set up the auxiliary directory tree and distribution system at GDAC and test cases



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■ §2.7 Auxiliary data file format

- Auxiliary files are used for data and metadata that are not (yet) standardized among Argo community. They typically contain data from new types of sensors or floats.
- Auxiliary data file format is NOT regulated by this document.
- Auxiliary files are distributed on GDAC ftp server in the “aux” directory that is parallel to the “dac” directory.
- The float metadata file in the ‘dac’ directory includes a text in the SPECIAL_FEATURES variable to indicate that there is additional data in the auxiliary directory and the nature of that data.
- Pls are encouraged to use a file format that is easily readable – either NetCDF or ASCII that mimics the Argo data format version 3.1 if possible.

■ Auxiliary file naming convention

- The Auxiliary data files use the file naming convention of the regular Argo data files (metadata, profile, trajectory, technical) with an additional “_aux.nc” or “_aux.txt” suffix.
- Example: float 6900527 metadata file and its associated “aux” technical and profile files
ftp://ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/argo/dac/coriolis/6900527/6900527_meta.nc
ftp://ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/argo/aux/coriolis/6900527/6900527_tech_aux.nc
ftp://ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/argo/aux/coriolis/6900527/profiles/R6900527_010_aux.nc



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- Argo auxiliary data file formats are **not standardized**.
- However, a good practice (not an obligation) within DACs is to document their auxiliary files. Coriolis DAC auxiliary file formats are documented here:
 - *Rannou Jean-Philippe (2017). Argo auxiliary files format for Coriolis DAC.*
<http://doi.org/10.13155/51995>