Introduction

Overview

This introduction explains the purpose and function of NCSA Reformat/ XReformat and outlines its capabilities. The organization and use of the manual are described and notational conventions explained.

What Is NCSA Reformat?

NCSA Reformat/XReformat is a software tool developed to enable you to convert non-HDF files to HDF files. After file conversion, you can easily use NCSA software or other tools that work with HDF format files.

More specifically, NCSA Reformat/XReformat allows you to convert FITS, TIFF, GIF, Sun and raw raster files (RI8 sets), and X Window dumps to the HDF format.

System Requirements

To use NCSA Reformat, you need a machine compatible with the UNIX language and an installed NCSA HDF library. To use NCSA XReformat, you need the previously listed requirements, as well as an installed X window system version 11, release 4 or later, and Athena Widget Set on your machine. Be aware that the executable for XReformat is much larger than that of Reformat.

Use of This Manual

This section describes the organization of this manual and the conventions and nomenclature used in developing it.

This manual assumes that you are familiar with the UNIX language and your machine's user interface, that is, that you know how to position the pointer, click and drag using the mouse, select items from the menus, and locate files using the directory dialog boxes. If you need information regarding these procedures, please refer to your machine's user's guide. If you are having problems with XReformat's user interface, please refer to documentation on the Athena Widget Set and the X Window System.

Manual Contents

The manual is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1, “NCSA Reformat/XReformat Basics,” introduces NCSA Reformat and XReformat outlining their similarities and differences.

Chapter 2, “File Formats,” provides more detailed information about the the type of and degree to which Reformat/XReformat supports file formats.

Appendix A, “Troubleshooting,” contains a list of error messages contained within the program, outlining their description, meaning and/or remedy.

Appendix B, “Adding File Types,” outlines the procedures for adding new file formats to NCSA Reformat.

Appendix C, “Obtaining NCSA Software,” outlines how you can obtain NCSA software via FTP, an archive server, or regular mail.

Form of Presentation

The material in this manual is presented in text, screen displays, or command line notation.

Text

In explaining various features and commands, this manual often presents a word within a paragraph in *italics* to indicate that the word is defined within the paragraph. Italics may also signify a term that should be noted and/or is being mentioned for the first time.

Portions of this manual refer to other portions of the manual where the other portions explain related topics. These cross references usually mention the title of sections or chapters enclosed in quotation marks, such as, See Chapter 1, “NCSA Reformat/XReformat Basics.”

Command Line Format Notation

Throughout this manual, many explanations instruct you to make entries by typing on the keyboard. These entry instructions are printed in **courier bold type** and appear within a paragraph or on a separate line. The command lines in this manual are normally shown in lowercase, except in rare instances where uppercase is required.

When it is necessary for you to press a key that is labeled with more than one character (such as the RETURN key), this manual identifies the key with all capital (uppercase) letters. Keys to be entered are printed in bold type. Keys that are pressed simultaneously or in succession are linked with a hyphen. For example, press CONTROL-A.

The meaning of each special notation applied to format lines is listed in Table 1.

Table I.1 Meaning of Entry Format Notations

Appearance	Example	Entry Method
On separate line; lowercase, courier bold type	**dothis**	Enter the keys for each character.

Within a text line; uppercase	RETURN	Press the single key indicated.
Within a text line; uppercase; hyphens between key names	CONTROL-A	While holding down the first one or two key(s) indicated, press the last key indicated.
On separate line or within a text line; italic, lowercase, courier bold type	***filename***	This notation is a variable, which represents a certain kind of entry, but may consist of different characters every time you make the entry.
Square brackets; bold type	**[ ]**	Do not enter the square brackets. Material presented between brackets is optional and should be entered only in certain cases.
Ellipses; bold type	**. . .**	Do not enter ellipses. Ellipses indicate you may enter more material similar to the material preceding the ellipses.