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To: Don Retallak
From: Bob Payne
Subject: Pipeline FLAGER program

Just a few random thoughts on a FLAGER program for the Pipeline datasets.

Three approaches come to mind:

first

A SORTER program most of which already exists in DBUTIL which would accept standard commands much as the current DEC10 flager and would create a file of flagging request for a particular dataset. A GO option would cause the program to flag the data. Since each flagging operation if done separately would require a complete pass through the dataset it is important to do as many flagging operations in one pass as is possible.

This program could simply create a request file which is executed in some batch process. If it runs immediately it ties up the initiating terminal until the operation is complete but it does guarantee the execution of the request and gives an indication of the success or failure of the operation. In a batch mode the user would need to interrogate the status of his request before he could begin mapping or other processing.

second

A DISPLAY program which is driven by a time-baseline display in an interactive mode. Again a file of flagging requests is made and is sent to the SORTER machine for execution as a batch job.

third

A DEC10 flager program which creates the flagged data file and sends it to the SORTER machine for batch processing.

The batch DBFLAG program could get requests from a queue of these flagging files.

I assume some history of the flagging operations should be kept and available to the user. I don't know a good way to do this.

The basic flagging record would include a timerange <start,stop>, correlators <ant1,ant2> where ant1 or ant2 may be a *, ifpairs <aa,ac,cc,ca,bb,bd,dd,db> or *, flag or unflag switch.

Suggestions:

A DBFLAG program should be written on the SORTER machine which can be run from the PIPELN program. It would execute immediately and only one user at a time could run this task.

Once this basic program works well the second approach of a batch queue of requests might be implemented. This request could be generated by the DISPLY time-baseline interactive program. If we have nothing else to do a DEC10 version of DBFLAG could be written to submit these batch requests.