

# Discussion of Best Practice for CONFIG\_PARAMETER and CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER

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As of the latest netCDF format census (September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016),  
the Argo Program has transitioned **88%** of meta netCDF files to version 3.1

Argo Data Management Team Meeting  
NMDIS, Tianjin, China  
26-30 September 2016





# What meta netCDF variables are we discussing?



```
N_CONFIG_PARAM = XX ;  
N_LAUNCH_CONFIG_PARAM = YY  
N_MISSIONS = UNLIMITED ;
```

```
char LAUNCH_CONFIG_PARAMETER_NAME (N_LAUNCH_CONFIG_PARAM, STRING128) ;  
    LAUNCH_CONFIG_PARAMETER_NAME:long_name =  
        "Name of configuration parameter at launch" ;  
double LAUNCH_CONFIG_PARAMETER_VALUE (N_LAUNCH_CONFIG_PARAM) ;
```

```
char CONFIG_PARAMETER_NAME(N_CONFIG_PARAM, STRING128) ;  
    CONFIG_PARAMETER_NAME:long_name =  
        "Name of configuration parameter" ;  
double CONFIG_PARAMETER_VALUE(N_MISSIONS, N_CONFIG_PARAM) ;
```

```
int CONFIG_MISSION_NUMBER(N_MISSIONS) ;  
    CONFIG_MISSION_NUMBER:long_name =  
        "Unique number denoting the missions performed by the float" ;
```

# Discussion and Question

From Argo Users Manual 3.2, Dec 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 :

*(CONFIG\_PARAMETERS)... include all **applicable** mandatory and highly-desirable parameters, and any other parameters **that change** during the life of the float....*

Are the individual LAUNCH\_CONFIG\_PARAMETER\_NAME and CONFIG\_PARAMETER\_NAME strings included within the netCDF files consistent across Argo? (irrespective of float model/sensor differences)

NO



In meta netCDF V2, many “float cycle” parameters had their own variables. Now in meta netCDF V3 they are placed in the CONFIG variable. How are we doing placing this information in the file? **Mandatory (if applicable)**, **Highly desirable (if applicable)**

DAC	CONFIG_	Park Time	Cycle Time	Surface TimeOut	Park Pres	Profile Pres.	AscentTo Surface TimeOut*	Descent ToPark TimeOut	Descent ToProf TimeOut
AOML (5955)		46	46	46	100	100	89	59	30
PMEL (923)		0	0	0	100	100	96	0	0
SIO (1531)		100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100
UW (1582)		0	0	0	100	100	85	35	0
WHOI (1279)		90	90	90	100	100	90	90	20
BODC (527)		0	0	0	98	96	42	42	42
CORIOLIS (1434)		0	100	44	100	100	15	15	53
CSIO (344)		0	100	3	100	100	5	5	5
CSIRO (748)		53	53	53	98	98	97	65	65
INCOIS (241)		68	93	90	100	100	7	7	8
JMA (1451)		100	100	18	98	100	56	14	14
MEDS (435)		0	0	0	100	100	100	0	0
NMDIS (15)		0	100	0	100	100	0	0	0

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UW (1582)	0	0	0	100	100	85	35	0
WHOI (1279)	90	90	90	100	100	90	90	20
BODC (527)	0	0	0	98	96	42	42	42
CORIOLIS (1434)	0	100	44	100	100	15	15	53
CSIO (344)	0	100	3	100	100	5	5	5
CSIRO (748)	53	53	53	98	98	97	65	65
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Additional CONFIG\_ that are helpful to trajectory estimation. This table is mainly comprised of parameters that are float specific.

Mandatory (if applicable), Highly desirable (if applicable)

DAC	CONFIG_ Direction	Down Time	Up Time	Ice Detection	BitMask Months	Ascent Speed	TargetAscent Speed	Ascent Speed Min
AOML (5955)	9	52	52	6	6	0	14	0
PMEL (923)	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0
SIO (1531)	35	0	0	20	20	0	35	0
UW (1582)	0	100	100	2	2	0	0	0
WHOI (1279)	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
BODC (527)	0	91	90	10	0	0	0	0
CORIOLIS (1434)	93	16	16	2	2	6	0	7
CSIO (344)	100	97	97	2	0	0	0	2
CSIRO (748)	1	97	98	25	23	0	0	0
INCOIS (241)	18	75	75	0	0	0	0	7
JMA (1451)	100	72	72	3	0	3	0	0
MEDS (435)	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NMDIS (15)	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Discussion and Questions

Are the individual LAUNCH\_CONFIG\_PARAMETER\_NAME and CONFIG\_PARAMETER\_NAME strings included within the netCDF files consistent across Argo? (irrespective of float model/sensor differences)

Should all, or a subset, of mandatory meta information be required for all float models to be filled in the meta netCDF for users to directly access?  
If a subset, then what is the basis for that subset?

Corollary: Should only config values that are directly used by the float be included in the meta netCDF (e.g. If SOLOII does not use a CycleTime configuration it should not be included in the meta netCDF)

If neither of the above, then are we saying we wish to stay with the non-consistent pattern we currently have.





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WHOI (1279)	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
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# Discussion and Questions

Do different groups have different strategies in filling LAUNCH\_CONFIG\_PARAMETER, CONFIG\_PARAMETER, and CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER included in the netCDF?

*Yes!, differences appear greater than I'd expect from 'spin up'.*

- > Inclusion of 'Everything' or a 'small subset' of parameters
- > Inclusion of only parameters that are directly transmitted by the float (uptime, downtime but not parktime, cycletime, etc)
- > Inclusion of CONFIG changes only from those parameters with large effect on trajectory estimation
- > Inclusion of CONFIG changes to sensors in CONFIG\_PARAMETERS
- > CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER = CYCLE\_NUMBER



Group WMO	N_LAUNCH _CONFIG	N_CONFIG	N_MISSION	N_CYCLES	Comment
SIO 1901838 SOLOII	27	20	4	21	N_MISSION < 2-way parameter changes via post-launch commands
PMEL 1901804 NAVIS	7	6	31	31	Mission # = Cycle #, no change in CONFIG values
WHOI 1901647 S2A	3	3	1	133	Mission parameter changes in early cycles, no change N_MISSION
UW 5903616 APEX	7	6	233	233	Mission # = Cycle #, no change in CONFIG values
BODC 3901494 APEX	27	27	17	84	Mission determined by PistonPark/Profile (tech); N_LAUNCH=N_CONFIG
INCOIS 2902089 PROVOR	161	18	12	130	MISSION defined by B-sensor settings (ex. FlbbWarmUpTime)
CSIRO 5904922	17	17	27	131	26 of 27 MISSIONS exact match in CONFIG; N_LAUNCH=N_CONFIG
CORIOLIS 6901437	347	52	17	146	52 CONFIG but no ParkTime?
MEDS 4901739	4	1	2	61	Only MEDS Iridium float with MISSION>1;

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# Questions for Clarification for proper use of the CONFIG family of variables

Can a non-mandatory parameter be included in CONFIG\_PARAMETER if it has remained the same over the float record?

It is not clear from the manual if this is allowed, although it is being done by many groups.

Should a setting NOT changed directly by command from the PI (such as PistonPark, PistonProfile, which reports the pumping necessary to target depth) be included in the CONFIG\_PARAMETER and CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER?

The present definition of these variables, allows for it.



DACs/Groups are defining a 'mission' found within CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER, in a variety of ways. Do we wish to allow/disallow some of these?

- 1) CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER= CYCLE\_NUMBER : Currently at the GDAC
  - ignores the contents of CONFIG\_PARAMETER;
  - N\_CONFIG=N\_CYCLE;
  - Likely to result in skipped CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER
- 2) CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER = numerical count of cycles returned by the float;
  - ignores the contents of CONFIG\_PARAMETER;
  - N\_CONFIG=N\_CYCLE;
  - Should result in consecutive values
- 3) If a DAC/group does not strictly adhere to the manual, the ADMT would prefer fillvalue instead of a non-standard procedure.

The ADMT has been unable to reach agreement on the use/definition of these variables, and that is demonstrated by the various meta netCDF uses for LAUNCH\_CONFIG\_PARAMETER, CONFIG\_PARAMETER and CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER?

Without such an agreement, these variables are very difficult for a user interested in using the complete Argo dataset to interpret.

Discussion on the above?

In lieu of agreement, would it be useful to add a standardized comment to the meta netCDF variables LAUNCH\_CONFIG\_PARAMETER, CONFIG\_PARAMETER and CONFIG\_MISSION\_NUMBER describing the interpretation of the variables.

The End

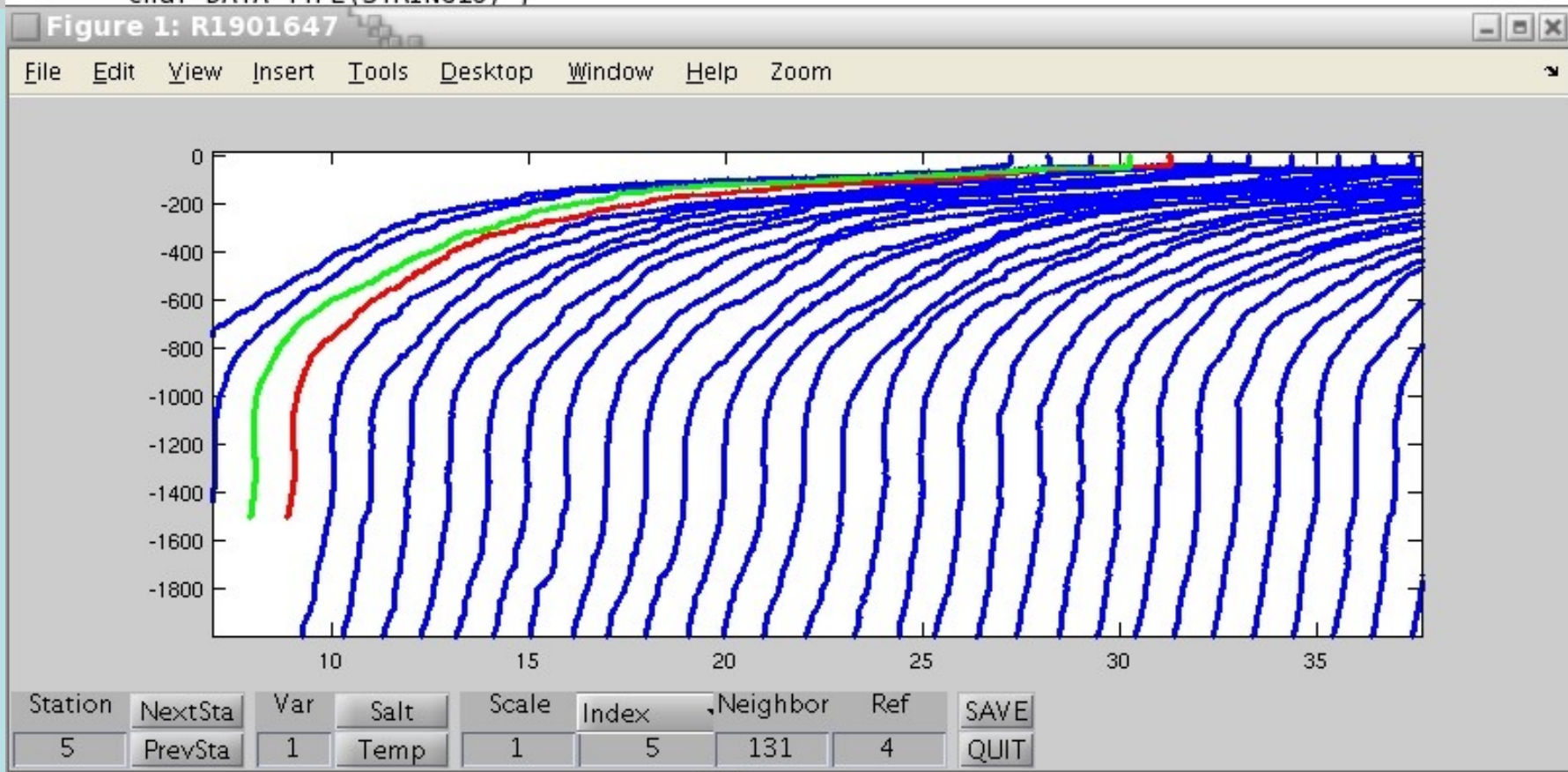
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Group/ WMO	N_LAUNCH _CONFIG	N_CONFIG	N_ MISSION	N_ CYCLES	
WHOI/ 1901647	3	3	1	133	Clear mission changes in early cycles



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