Release Strategy of CCF's

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Abstract

The calibration is controlled through *Current Calibration Files* (CCF's), which are a set of quantities to be interpreted by the SAS. Releases of the CCF's and their relation to updates of the SAS are described.

1 Introduction

New findings of calibrations are encapsulated in updates of one or more CCF constituents. The behavior of the SAS is entirely controlled by the set CCF's used for a given data analysis. Ideally all calibration knowledge is encapsulated in quantities which are stored in CCF's, which the SAS interprets to calibrate the data. However, evolution of the calibration knowledge since launch was such that also new calibration algorithms had to be developed. In the following the relation between new SAS releases and updates to the CCF's is described.

2 Backwards Compatibility

With every new release of the SAS, backwards compatibility is ensured such that older issues of any CCF can be used, and that the functionality is identical. Thus by explicit selection of a CCF component, e.g. by specifying a component with the task parameter `--ccffiles`.

3 New Releases of CCF Components

If a new issue of a CCF component can be used with the current released SAS, it is released straight away, and it is recommended to be down-loaded by the user. Information about the effect of this calibration change can be obtained from the associated release note[1].

In the case that new functionality is required for the implementation of a certain calibration, the CCF will only be made available together with the first release of the SAS following the implementation of this particular functionality. In this way it is ensured that the latest released SAS can use all CCF's available.

In this scenario, it is assumed that the user will keep in step with the releases of the SAS. Older releases of the SAS can still be used, but care must be taken with using later CCF's. There are two options to proceed:

[1] http://xmm.vilspa.esa.es/ccf/releasenotes/ccfindex.html

1. check the corresponding release note, which contains a table listing from which version of the SAS onwards the CCF can be used.
2. specify as argument to *cifbuild* an `analysisdate` which is not younger than the release date of the latest SAS version.

See the introduction in *gvacanti_2* about *cifbuild* about details on these.

Finally, the SAS (actually the CAL) will cause an error, if being used with a CCF which is incompatible with the version of the SAS.

4 Additional Information

CCF's are distributed through the Web[2]. Descriptions of each CCF are provided by release notes[3]. Additional calibration related information can be obtained at the calibration Web pages[4], including periodical summaries of the status of the calibrations per instrument. Announcements of new CCF's are made to the CCF mailing list[5].

5 Local Implementation during this Workshop

There are two versions of the SAS available at this workshop, the latest released version 5.2, and the current development track. From the discussion above, it follows that there have to be two separate directories where CCF constituents are being stored:

- /data/ccf/public/
- /data/ccf/devel/

Users using SAS 5.2 have to set `SAS_CCFPATH = /data/ccf/public/`
Users using the development version of the SAS should set `SAS_CCFPATH = /data/ccf/public/:/data/ccf/devel/`

References

[2] http://xmm.vilspa.esa.es/ccf/
[3] http://xmm.vilspa.esa.es/ccf/releasenotes/
[4] http://xmm.vilspa.esa.es/calibration/
[5] mailto:ccf-request@xmm.vilspa.esa.es?subject=subscribe