National Ignition Facility Shot Data Analysis Module Guidelines

S. Azevedo, S. Glenn, A. Lopez, A. Warrick, R. Beeler

October 9, 2007
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National Ignition Facility
Shot Data Analysis – Module Guidelines

Revision 3.5

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September, 2007

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List of Acronyms

CDR   Conceptual Design Review
CM    Configuration Management
CDMS  Calibration Data Management System
CMS   Content Management System
CMT   Campaign Management Tool
CVS   Concurrent Versioning System
FDR   Final Design Review
HDF   Hierarchical Data Format
ICCS  Integrated Computer Control System for NIF
IDL   Interactive Data Language
IPT   Integrated Product Team
LP    Laser Performance
NIF   National Ignition Facility
OI    Optics Inspection
PDR   Preliminary Design Review
RI    Responsible Individual
RS    Responsible Scientist
SDA   Shot Data Analysis
SDI   Shot Data Integration
SDV   Shot Data Visualization

For a more complete list of NIF acronyms, see http://www-r.llnl.gov/nif/admin/documents/NIF_acronyms.pdf
1.0 Introduction

This document provides the guidelines for software development of modules to be included in Shot Data Analysis (SDA) for the National Ignition Facility (NIF). An Analysis Module is a software entity that groups a set of (typically cohesive) functions, procedures and data structures for performing an analysis task relevant to NIF shot operations. Each module must have its own unique identification (module name), clear interface specifications (data inputs and outputs), and internal documentation.

It is vitally important to the NIF Program that all shot-related data be processed and analyzed in a consistent way that is reviewed by scientific and engineering experts. SDA is part of a NIF Integrated Product Team (IPT) whose goal is to provide timely and accurate reporting of shot results to NIF campaign experimentalists. Other elements of the IPT include the Campaign Management Tool (CMT) for configuring experiments, a data archive and provisioning system called CMS, a calibration and configuration database (CDMS), and a shot data visualization tool (SDV).

We restrict our scope at this time to guidelines for modules written in Interactive Data Language, or IDL. This document has sections describing example IDL modules and where to find them, how to set up a development environment, IDL programming guidelines, shared IDL procedures for general use, and revision control.

1.1 Module Development

We will refer to a “Developer” as anyone who writes and implements Analysis Modules. A Developer could be a member of the SDA software development team (referred to as “SDA Developers”), or they could be Diagnostic Responsible Scientists (RS), Campaign Experimentalists, Responsible Individuals (RI), Diagnostics Engineers, and others. Developers will often perform module development and testing in a local compute environment (we will call the “Desktop” environment) using local data for testing. Then, once it is ready for integration and release, the module is transferred to the SDA development team members who work with the Developer on reviews, validation of results, release schedules and configuration management.

This document is directed mostly toward the module development step, and the standards that will make the integration and release steps go smoothly, which will reduce the time and cost of implementation and long-term maintenance. For completeness, the SDA Developers follow a rigorous software deployment methodology that involves:

- Requirements gathering – Reviewed by RS/RI/ Users
- Conceptual Design – Module flow (Visio diagram); Reviewed by RS/RI/Users
- Preliminary Design – Data inputs/outputs (Spreadsheet); Reviewed by RS, Developers
- Final Design – List of functions to develop; Reviewed by RS, Developers
- Development – Implement algorithms and performance tests; Reviewed by RS
- Integration testing – Performed by Developers/Testers
- Final Documentation – Reviewed by all
- Regression test – Deliver data and test procedures for automatic testing
- Release to Production
- Revision Control and Management

1 IDL is a registered trademark of the Research Systems, Inc. (RSI); see [1] for details.
1.2 Manual vs Automatic Operations

Analysis modules must be capable of running both manually (under direct user control) and automatically (without user intervention during the NIF shot cycle). Modules that process production data automatically after a shot are maintained by the SDA module development team.

For automatic SDA on NIF, the modules will be called by the Shot Data Analysis Engine [3] and Drivers [4]. A block diagram of the automated analysis process is shown in Figure 1. The SDA Engine provides the framework for triggering, sequencing and queuing (scheduling) the analysis module operations, while the Analysis Driver controls the flow of data and results using the NIF Content Management System (CMS). The analysis data flow may involve a group of modules to perform an overall analysis task, such as “analyze Static X-ray Imager data”.

The IDL module functions that are directly called by the Drivers (Routines A, B, and C in the figure) will be referred to as “top-level functions”, which may have their own lower level functions or procedures. These top-level analysis functions must be able to accept data from, and return data to, the Analysis Driver and Engine through the argument list. The input data will include configuration data, raw data, calibration data and/or processed data. Output data will include processed data, as well as error, quality, and other information. All of the above data, and the Analysis Modules that produce a processed result, are collectively referred to as the result’s “pedigree”. Data and the modules themselves are all available for download and can be run manually as desktop modules (independent of the Engine).

Figure 1. Shot Data Analysis Engine, Driver and Modules. The Engine invokes Analysis Drivers based on an analysis flow model. The Driver accesses the data to/from the Content Management System and initiates the (possibly multi-step) module routines of the modules on an Analysis Compute Server.
1.3 Guiding Principles
For shot data analysis in NIF, developers should adhere to the following guiding principles that are listed below and were established in our initial requirements (see [1]).

- Analysis functions will be published and “transparent” using known calibration measurements; i.e., everyone will know what steps were performed to arrive at the results, and they have access to those results.
- The data will be tracked and controlled so that the analysis pedigree is known and the visualization team can display the results. Hand-entered figures or undocumented calculations will be strongly discouraged. The data will be stored in CMS.
- Analysis steps need to be configurable, based on the type of shot and the components of the NIF system that are participating.
- Where possible, uncertainty (error bounds) and data quality metrics will be measured/calculated, published and archived with the data.
- Analysis results will be made available in a time period so they can be applied to the next decisions. The current NIF data analysis requirement is 30 minutes for “quick looks” of shot data.
- Comparisons to off-line data or simulations will be supported. These modeled or simulated data will be made available to the analysis software when available, preferably prior to the shot, for comparison purposes; i.e., the expected results (and error bounds) will be compared to measured data as part of the analysis.
- The ability to re-run the analysis of the data, off-line from the shot, using different parameters or analysis methods will be supported. Any data from prior shots will be available for this off-line analysis.
- Likewise, the user will be able to download the analysis algorithms for the purposes of running the analysis software on synthetic or customized data not associated with any shot, such as “what-if” studies and tuning tests.
- Emphasis is on data that are automatically acquired and are required for making shot-related decisions, though other data will be involved as well.

2.0 Setting up an IDL Developer Environment
Application Developers can set up a local IDL development environment as they wish, whether it is on their own machine or a server, using the manuals that come with an IDL license. After installing IDL, go to the NIF Wiki site\(^2\) [https://nif-wiki.llnl.gov/display/sdi/Downloads](https://nif-wiki.llnl.gov/display/sdi/Downloads) and download the zip file sda_idl_X.X.X.zip (where X.X.X is the latest version). This file contains IDL utility functions and procedures to handle common tasks (error reporting, message logging, etc.), as well as test functions, a template file (td_func_template.pro in Figure 2 and described later), and some common global variable definitions in td_retdescs.inc and td_logdefs.inc. A test function td_testenv.pro can be executed in IDL to demonstrate that the environment is working properly; it generates a log file td_log_date.txt in the TD_LOGFILEPATH directory. (See Appendix A for more details.) Other useful files in that directory are described in the README.txt file, also on the Wiki site.

\(^2\) Access to the NIF Wiki can be requested at [https://gethelp.llnl.gov](https://gethelp.llnl.gov) through the Remedy system.
AUTHOR:  
A. Developer, 5/30/07

PURPOSE:  
Computes sum and difference of two identically-sized images. This section should contain relevant background information, a description of the routine does, a list of known limitations, and any critical assumptions made about its inputs.

EXAMPLE:  
    a = dist(256)  
    b = shift(a, 128, 128)  
    errStatus = td_func_template(  
        img1 = a,  
        img2 = b,  
        fudge_factor = 0.33,  
        sum_img = a_plus_b,  
        diff_img = a_minus_b,  
        quality_flag = goodQual,  
        errmsg = errmsg )  
    if (errStatus ne 0) then  
        print, errmsg  
    else tvscl, sum_img

REFERENCES:  
Some_document.pdf

INPUT PARAMETERS:  
NAME TYPE DESCRIPTION  
img1 2D array First image  
img2 2D array Second image. Dimensions and type must match img1  
fudge_factor float Correction factor.
bad_pixels uint List of bad pixel indices.

OUTPUT PARAMETERS:  
NAME TYPE DESCRIPTION  
sum_img 2D array Normalized sum of img1 and img2  
diff_img 2D array Difference of img1 and img2  
quality_flag int Results quality flag: 1 if good, 0 if bad.  
errmsg string Error description. Empty if errStatus is 0.

RETURNED VALUES:  
NAME TYPE DESCRIPTION  
errStatus int 0->success, -1->failure

REVISION HISTORY:  
NAME DATE CHANGE DESCRIPTION
aperson33 04/23/07 New file.
buser7 10/05/07 Added over/underflow error handling.

FUNCTION td_func_template,  
    img1 = img1,  
    img2 = img2,  
    fudge_factor = fudge_factor,  
    sum_img = sum_img,  
    diff_img = diff_img,  
    quality_flag = quality_flag,  
    errmsg = errmsg

module_name = 'FUNC_TEMPLATE'; for message logging
@td_retcodes.inc ; include return code definitions
@td_logdefs.inc ; include log filter level definitions
errStatus = TD_STATUS_NORMAL ; initialize error status value
quality_flag = TD_QUALITY_BAD ; initialize quality flag
errmsg = '' ; initialize returned error message
td_log, '<-- Begin', td_logdefs.INFO, module_name=module_name

-------------------------------------------------------------------
### 3.0 IDL Analysis Module Guidelines

The Application Developer has many ways to write an analysis module. However, developers should adhere to the following general guidelines.

#### 3.1 Use Functions, not Procedures

The SDA Engine invokes modules as IDL functions, not procedures. The top-level function is expected to return at least one value – an error flag. Internal to the module, procedures may be used. The top-level function file name must match the function name itself. Developers are encouraged to use the symbolic constant `TD_STATUS_NORMAL` (or `TD_STATUS_ERROR`) for return values to indicate success (or failure) as illustrated in the template module.

![Figure 2. Template IDL Module.](image-url)
3.2 Pass Data through the Argument List with Keywords

In order to run automatically under the SDA Engine, the module cannot perform its own interaction with the user or data archive. All data needed (or generated) by the module must be transferred in or out of the top-level function through its argument list and return value; that is, automated modules do not make database calls directly, or use global variables to pass information, and internal variables are not visible to the Engine.

In addition, functions should be called with IDL keyword arguments to avoid errors in the calling sequence. The syntax in IDL argument lists is to enter a keyword name followed by an equal sign (“=”) prior to the value to which the keyword should be set. The value can be a constant, an expression, or an IDL named variable. (See the IDL documentation [2] for more details.) By employing keywords in function calls, the argument list can be order independent and the arguments can be easily validated. An example function call using keywords for the fictional function above is given in its header.

```idl
a = dist(256)
b = shift(a, 128, 128)
errStatus = td_func_template( $
  img1 = a, $
  img2 = b, $
  fudge_factor = 0.33, $
  sum_img = a_plus_b, $
  diff_img = a_minus_b, $
  quality_flag = goodQual, $
  errmsg = errmsg )
```

3.3 Provide Test Code and Data

In the process of developing modules, it is assumed that one or more examples of sample input data will be available for testing the algorithms. The Developer should generate a simple unit-test function that invokes the module with the sample data that produces known results. When development is complete, the sample data and the unit-test function should be made available to the SDA development team along with the module source code. That way, when the module is turned over for configuration management and insertion into the automatic analysis procedures, there are examples that can be used to test their operation.

A unit-testing procedure or function should be named `test_pkg.pro`, where `pkg` is the name of the module package. The unit-test code should invoke the module with the sample data set(s), exercising as much of the module functionality as possible.

3.4 Reduce Duplication

Developers are encouraged to look at the IDL libraries and `td_util` directory for shared functions that can be re-used. Duplication of functionality will lead to maintenance issues, and should therefore be minimized. In the initial version of this directory, there are functions for basic image integrity checking (`td_camera_imagecheck`) and log file utilities (`td_log`).

3.5 Provide Early Error Notification

Modules should verify that required input information is present, and should provide early error notification before lengthy analysis is performed. If input data or calibration values must be within a
known range, for example, the module should check for that range and at least log a message (if not return an error flag and error message).

### 3.6 Document the Module

Besides the code itself (the .pro file), there are three documents that must be associated with a module: a module requirements document, a module input/output summary spreadsheet, and a module data map.

The module requirements document contains the following information.
- Overview of the module (scope, description, uses)
- Usage – Types of data/instruments for which it is used
- Calibration information needed (if applicable)
- Data flow and a data summary
- Algorithm theory including references, if available.
- Example input data and results, including off-normal data
- Metrics for measuring data quality (that are returned from the module)
- Visualization requirements (high level)
- Testing methods (see Section 4.0 Module Testing)
- Revision and review history

The module input/output summary spreadsheet provides a specific and detailed list of arguments and their properties so that the interface to the module is clearly defined.

The module data map is another spreadsheet that defines, for each use of the module, where the input data is to be found and where the output data is to go. For example, an Image Background Correction module may be used for both streak cameras and for static-frame cameras, but their resulting data may be stored in very different places in the database using CMS. The module data map lists the specific data storage locations in the data base for each argument in the input/output summary, and for each use of the module.

All three of the above documents are under revision control for those modules maintained by the SDA development team. Examples of all of these documents are available on the NIF wiki site, or by request.

### 3.7 Return Metrics

SDA Modules should return metrics about the results— for example, values that indicate how well the algorithm performed (a “quality flag”) and the statistical error bounds (one-sigma) for the results when possible. The file td_retcodes.inc in the td_util package contains the following definitions:

- \( \text{td\_quality} = 1 \): Good quality output data
- \( \text{td\_quality} = 0 \): Bad quality; the output data may have a problem

The other metrics and return parameters should provide more information about the severity of the problem and the performance of the algorithm. For multi-step modules, separate quality flags may be needed for each step, with the final quality flag being the product of each one.

### 3.8 Follow Naming Conventions

A naming convention has been established to help users describe, organize and find modules. Since IDL has one global namespace, these conventions will also help reduce naming conflicts.
• Lower-case letters, numbers and underscores – All functions should start with a letter and contain only letters, numbers and the underscore character (as a separator). No other special characters should be used.
• Lower case – All functions and file names should only use lower-case letters (no upper or mixed cases) to facilitate operation on diverse platforms.
• Routines for general shot data domains should have the area tag at the beginning of the name as shown:
  lp   laser performance
  oi   optics inspection
  td   target diagnostics
• Specific routines have both the domain tag and the sub-domain tag in the name, followed by a descriptive phrase of the routine. For example, sample routine names for target diagnostics are:
  td_sxi_pattern_find
  td_img_flatfield
  td_img_deadpixfix

### 3.9 Use the Standard Layout

Each module should contain the programming elements and comment blocks shown in the template (Figure 2) and listed below:

• Header comment block – Includes copyright notice, version control information, author, purpose of the code, references, input and output parameters (with data types and description), returned values, assumptions, library dependencies, example usage and revision history. The version-control block should be left unchanged as the revision management system (CVS) uses those fields to track changes (see Section 5.0 Revision Control).
• Function (or procedure) name and parameters – Include the returned error status and error message.
• Logging definitions – The command “@td_logdefs.inc” defines the message logging flags to be used.
• Return code definitions – The command “@td_retcodes.inc” defines the symbolic constants for returned error status and results quality flags.
• Error handler – Establishes a common error handler that forces a message and graceful exit, while avoiding infinite loops.
• Parameter verification – A block that checks the validity of parameters, providing clear error messages in case of problems, is good programming practice.
• User-supplied algorithm – Performs the operations stated in the purpose. Liberal comments are always recommended.
• Return the error flag in all cases with the following values (from td_retcodes.inc)
  - TD_STATUS_NORMAL       No error
  - TD_STATUS_ERROR         Error

A module file can also contain procedures or functions that are only used by the main function. Comments should be employed throughout the file to document the module.

Messages of various types (errors, warnings, information, debug) should also be used to aid development and maintenance (see Section 3.12 Log Messages).
3.10 Use IDL Structures as Needed
IDL data structures or classes can be used in SDA modules, and their use is encouraged. Structures help organize the passing of values from one function to another, simplify input parameter checking, accommodate future modification request, and increase maintainability. General and detailed instrument structure elements and types will be determined at a later date.

3.11 Avoid Global Variables or Common Blocks
Avoid the use of global variables or common blocks that pass data implicitly. Otherwise, behavior of a function may not be apparent from its interface. (The message logging variables in Section 5.13 are a special case since a single point of global access is required.) Also, if there are dependencies on foreign procedures or libraries, they should be noted in the header and care should be taken to avoid duplication of names across all procedures in use.

3.12 Do Not Use Display Commands
The Developer is discouraged from using display output commands such as `tv, plot, device`, or graphical widgets such as `image or itool` within the normal path of execution. This is because the Analysis Engine framework does not support graphical screen output. Instead, the calling routine, or a separate visualization tool, should be employed to display data results from the module.

3.13 Log Messages
To aid debugging, a message-logging package has been implemented so that text output from modules can be systematically stored in a central location. The message logging mechanism is not intended for analysis results storage.

Messages are sent to a common log file established by the SDA Engine (or calling procedure). The user can set a “messaging level” that establishes at run-time whether messages are written or not using the `td_set_log_filter` routine before running an analysis module. We define the following message levels:

- **Error** – Causes the module to return immediately with error flag set
- **Warning** – Serious problem that does not cause a halt (or error)
- **Info** – No problems; report that a line in the code is reached at a certain time
- **Debug** – Provide additional information for debugging purposes. We define three levels of debug logging (DEBUG1, DEBUG2, DEBUG3) that output successively more information. The level DEBUG_ALL turns on all the above messaging.

It is up to the developer to decide where and when messages should be sent to the log file and at what level. Problems are easier to diagnose if frequent messages are logged that contain incremental results or progress indicators. On the other hand, it is easy to over-comment; e.g., messages reported in a tight loop can flood the log, causing confusion and, in extreme cases, adversely affecting throughput and disk space.

The “`td_log`” procedure is the function for writing all messages using the following construct (also demonstrated in Figure 2):

```
        td_log 'msg', msg_level, [module_name='routine_identifier']
```
where ‘msg’ is a string that will be written to the log file, and msg_level is one of the following global values corresponding to the above messaging levels:

- `td_logdefs.ERROR`
- `td_logdefs.WARNING`
- `td_logdefs.INFO`
- `td_logdefs.DEBUG1`
- `td_logdefs.DEBUG2`
- `td_logdefs.DEBUG3`

The ‘msg’ string should be descriptive enough to provide the reader with real information about the process. See examples of message logging in the provided code template.

Writing to “standard output” can be done also. During automatic operation, the Analysis Engine captures anything written to standard output and saves it in a log file along with the other log messages. To maintain consistency of messages, using the `td_log` mechanism is preferred.

### 3.14 Use Supported Procedures

As with all commercial and open source software packages, new releases of, say, IDL will require review and testing of existing code—and changes are likely to be needed to maintain compatibility. To reduce problems of obsolete functions and other effects, Developers should use clearly-supported functions and procedures that are not expected to change in the future. Backward-compatibility tests will be performed on all SDA software before a new version of commercial software is employed.

### 4.0 Module Testing

Before a module is accepted for use, it must go through three types of testing – unit test (stand-alone), integration test (in the SDA Engine), and performance verification. The testing and documentation requirements, described in this section, are the same whether developed by RS or the SDA team.

#### 4.1 Unit Test

As described in Section 3.3 Provide Test Code and Data, the Developer will supply a unit test function (`test_pkg.pro`), with supporting data, which can be performed in a manual or stand-alone mode. The input data may originate from anywhere—previous experiments or simulated data from the RS or simply made up—as long as it exercises the module functions, including common error modes. This type of testing can be simply a function to check input/output data types and graceful error handling. It only verifies that the resultant data is reasonable, not the accuracy or precision of the results.

#### 4.2 Integration Test (Verification)

This type of testing verifies the resulting data of an individual module or a group of modules that are invoked by the SDA Engine. It requires that the test data be located in the central data archive where the SDA Engine can retrieve the data, provide data to the module and store resulting data to the archive.
The integration tests only validate the module operation meets requirements given the (limited) set of test data.

Prior to code release, a control script will systematically run each test data set in the central archive through the module and compare the results to stored values. Both normal and off-normal data should be included in the integration tests. The archive of test data will increase in size over time as new test cases are discovered.

### 4.3 Performance Validation

In conjunction with the scientific expert (the RS), the module developer will perform a series of tests, with many types of inputs and parameters, to validate the scientific merit of the output results. Each new set of input data, with its own uncertainties and noise sources, can cause unexpected numerical results instabilities in the module algorithms. Performance validation is a process that continues throughout the useful life of the code.

### 5.0 Revision Control

For Analysis Modules that are run automatically, the SDA development team is managing the software configuration through a standard version control system called CVS. A separate document [5] describes the CVS structure and methodology for the SDA version control. The main goals are to

1. Independently manage and release groups of source files in Analysis Packages – Example packages are common utilities, camera corrections, SXI analysis, Dante analysis, etc.
2. Support the establishment of analysis pedigree – Keep track of the code version that generates a particular analysis result, in addition to the raw data, calibration and other parameters that affect the data.
3. Support dependency analysis – Be able to determine which results are potentially affected when a module group is revised, and initiate analysis re-runs if needed. This feature may also be used to guide testing.
4. Maintain transparency – Allow all who are interested in NIF results be able to see how those results were achieved at every step.

The revision control procedure described in [5] has the following general outline that will be refined over time. It applies mainly to code that is managed by the SDA development team:

- Change requests – Requests to make changes can be e-mailed to any member of the SDA development team, where they are assigned and given a priority.
- Design the repair – The SDA Developer will design the modifications needed and review them with appropriate personnel (RS and/or SDA team).
- Implementation – The changes are made and tested on a unit basis in the SDA development environment. The results are reviewed by the SDA team.
- Documentation changes – Both the module requirements document and the internal code documentation must be updated.
- Regression test – Deliver data and test procedures for automatic testing.
- Release to Production.
6.0 Summary

This document presents the Shot Data Analysis module development guidelines for IDL codes. For modules that are to be used in automatic analysis following a NIF shot, adherence to these guidelines will be required. Templates and common procedures are available in the NIF Wiki (https://nif-wiki.llnl.gov/display/sdi/Downloads) to aid the developer.

References


Revision Log:

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Appendix A

Example module: td_testenv.pro

In Section 2.0 Setting up an IDL Developer Environment, we introduced a sample IDL file that can be used to test the user’s environment. Once the environment is established, load the td_testenv.pro file into IDL and type the two commands highlighted in the figure below – td_setpath to set the directory paths and td_testenv to perform a simple saturated-pixel correction and write information to the log file. The screen output should appear similar to Figure A-1.

![IDL Development Environment](image)

**Figure A-1.** IDL screen output for td_testenv.
The module will generate a log file that can be found in the TD_LOGFILEPATH directory, where TD_LOGFILEPATH is an environment variable that is set in IDL (default is the current working directory). Contents of the log file should resemble the output below.

![Log file output](image)

**Figure A-2.** Output log for `td_testenv`.

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14  Version 3.5 (10/01/07)