

## PLATES Project

### Data format and description

Data are in ascii format. Each piece of data is stored as a 'string.' A string consists of a two-line header followed by lines with latitude, longitude, pen command. (If pen command = 2, draw to that point. If pen command = 3, skip to that point.) The string is ended by: 99.0000 99.0000 3. The header describes the data and is for use with PLATES software. The first line of the header consists of a 4-digit reference number (where the first two digits are the region number and the second two digits are the reference number), a 4-digit string number, and a geographic description of the data. The second line consists of a 3-digit plate identification number, the time of appearance and disappearance (in millions of years), a 2-letter code for the type of data, a 4-digit data type number, a 1-letter code for further description of the data type number, a 3-digit plate identification number, a 3-digit color code, and a 5-digit code that states how many points are contained in the string (not including the last point, 99.0000 99.0000).

Format (in FORTRAN code) for the header is:

```
format(2i2,1x,1i4,1x,a)
```

```
format(x,i3,x,f6.1,x,f6.1,x,a2,i4,a1,i3,x,i3,x,i5)
```

Format (in FORTRAN code) for the latitude-longitude line is:

```
format(f9.4,1x,f9.4,x,i1)
```

Example below shows the string for the North Atlantic Ridge Axis

```
92 1 3 NORTH & CENTRAL ATLANTIC RIDGE AXIS
101 0.1 -999.0 RI 1 101 1 8
37.4118 -32.2971 3
37.1394 -32.3909 2
37.1760 -32.6448 2
37.0349 -32.7066 2
36.9175 -33.0039 2
99.0000 99.0000 3
```

For the first line of the header:

92 = North Atlantic region

1 = reference number for the data

3 = string number

NORTH & CENTRAL... = geographic description

For the second line of the header:

101 = North American plate id number

0.1 = age of appearance of the ridge

-999.0 = default age of disappearance of the ridge

RI = data type code for spreading ridges

1 = data type code number

101 = North American plate id number

1 = color code number

8 = number of points in the string