Policy on Superseded Data

Adopted by PDS Management Council 8-0-1 (A'Hearn abstaining) on 2011-03-30

PDS defines a 'superseded' data set to be one that has been replaced by a newer version, implying that the data set is not to be used unless the requestor has specific reasons such as reanalysis for historical purposes. Upon being superseded, the data set's keyword ARCHIVE_STATUS is set to SUPERSEDED.

Six months after data set ARCHIVE_STATUS has been set to SUPERSEDED, PDS may (if source data are available and storage would be a continuing burden) reduce the data set to production algorithms, calibration, examples, etc. which could be used to regenerate the original (for example, a DATA directory could be reduced to a few representative examples). Documentation of the reduction must be included with the reduced data set. If source data are not available or if algorithms, calibrations, examples, etc. are not available, PDS must keep all versions of the data set indefinitely.

It is sufficient for PDS to retain only a single copy of a SUPERSEDED data set, which would be in its NSSDC deep archive.