
Subject: Re: CDF question

Posted by [Harald Frey](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Harald Frey wrote:

```
> I started working with CDF files and encountered two problems/questions.
>
> 1.
> IDL> id=cdf_open('WIC')
> IDL> cdf_control,id,variable='epoch',get_var_info=info
> % CDF_CONTROL: Must specify a variable via VARIABLE keyword.
> % Execution halted at: READ_THE_WIC_CDF  26 read_the_wic_cdf.pro
> %                               $MAIN$
>
> I think I have specified a variable 'epoch'?
>
> 2. I have several variables in a CDF record of different size (2D
> arrays, single numbers etc.). The procedure CDF_VARGET requires keywords
> interval and offset. How do I specify these vectors in a universal
> manner?
>
> I would very much appreciate getting an example program.
>
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>
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```

I found at least the solution for the first problem. In some way IDL is sensitive to upper/lower case statements in that case. I have a variable in the cdf-file 'EPOCH'.

```
IDL> print,!version
{ sparc sunos unix 5.1 Apr 13 1998}
IDL> id=cdf_open('WIC')
IDL> result2=cdf_varinq(id,1)
IDL> print,result2.name
EPOCH
IDL> var=result2.name
IDL> cdf_control,id,variable=var,get_var_info=info
IDL> help,info,/struc
** Structure <83850>, 7 tags, length=28, refs=1:
  EXTENDRECS    LONG          0
  MAXALLOCREC   LONG          3
  MAXREC        LONG          3
  MAXRECS       LONG          3
```

NINDEXENTRIES	LONG	2
NINDEXRECORDS	LONG	1
PADVALUE	INT	0

Everything works in this case. However, if I specify the variable var in lower case letters, then I get this stupid and misleading error message.

```
IDL> var='epoch'
IDL> cdf_control,id,variable=var,get_var_info=info
% CDF_CONTROL: Must specify a variable via VARIABLE keyword.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

I don't fully understand this behaviour. Maybe it's UNIX related? But cdf-files should be platform compatible. However, I found my way around it and don't care much more.

Harald
