
Subject: Re: how to list variable names from netCDF file?
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 1995 08:00:00 GMT
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T.Osborn wrote:

>
> Can anyone help me with the following problem?
>
> I am trying to write some IDL code to read in a number of netCDF files, without
> knowing in advance the names of the variables in the file. Is there a routine
> which can return the variable name of the Nth variable in the file?
>
> Once open, I can use ncdf_inquire to find the number of variables, but
> ncdf_varinq says it can only return the name of a variable if you give it
> the variable's id, which can be got from calling ncdf_varid. But ncdf_varid
> requires the variables name! What I need is an equivalent of ncdf_attname,
> which returns the name of the Nth attribute.
>

Maybe the documentation is causing you trouble (imagine that!).
Here is a small example...

```
file = '/Datasets/nmc/uwnd.79.nc'  
ncid = NCDF_OPEN( file )  
result = NCDF_INQUIRE( ncid )  
num_vars = result.NVARS  
for i = 0, num_vars-1 do print, ncdf_varinq(ncid,i)
```

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