
Subject: New netCDF Browser

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Feb 2008 06:48:55 GMT

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Folks,

I have been working with netCDF files recently, and I have been bothered by the lack of a decent way to browse the contents of these files. I've found decent software to read the variables out of these files, but you have to know the names of the variables you want to read, and I often don't. I've tried using the HDF_BROWSER, but that interface is god-awful ugly, not to mention non-intuitive, and I don't like it.

So I wrote my own netCDF Browser. All you do is pass it the name of the file and it can parse all the data and metadata in the file and it will give you a graphical view of it. Select a variable you want to read, and the browser will read the variable and put it into a variable at the main IDL level for you.

Most of the functionality is built into a NCDF_DATA object. This gives the user great flexibility and functionality to work with netCDF files. But I think most users will use the NCDF_BROWSER front end. This is just an IDL procedure that takes the name of a netCDF file. It does everything else, including cleanup up after itself.

I have some ideas for cosmetic updates, but before I implement them, I thought I would try to get some feedback to see if the browser works with everyone's netCDF files. They have worked with all I've tried, but I haven't subjected them to newbie programming pressure yet. :-)

If you are interested, you can find all the Coyote programs you need here:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ncdf_browser.zip

To run the basic program, just pass the filename of a netCDF file to the program, like this:

```
IDL> nCDF_BROWSER, file
```

Always interested in your feedback.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
