
Subject: Re: IDL & reading headers of netCDF files
Posted by [kishore1818](#) on Thu, 21 Feb 2008 16:27:32 GMT
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On Jan 8, 6:46 am, chloesharro...@gmail.com wrote:

> I'm a 4th year Physics UG trying to get to grips with IDL ready for my
> research project involving atmospheric data next term. I'm trying to
> read the header contents of some netCDF files and am at a complete
> loss (it doesn't help that I have never worked with netCDF files
> before and don't know what I'm actually trying to look for!). I have
> done some very basic C-Programming before, but am a novice at
> programming and have no experience with UNIX.
>
> I've been using Liam Gumley's book and have read the section on
> reading and writing netCDF files but can't get the information I
> want. I've managed to obtain a list of the variables my files
> contain, but my supervisors have asked me to use the `ncdump -h` command
> to read what the header is. So here are my problems:
>
> 1. I'm a Mac OS X user so have tried during the `ncdump -h` command in
> my terminal but it fails. I understand this is because I need some
> netCDF software on my computer. I tried to download this but got
> completely lost in the detailed instructions relating to Unix - it
> seemed to imply that I required a C-compiler on my computer for the
> installation to work (I don't have a C-compiler) and the files it told
> me to use did not exist in the folder I had just downloaded.
>
> 2. Is there any way of avoiding UNIX and being able to read the
> contents of the header directly in IDL's Development Environment?
>
> 3. I have downloaded Panoply (<http://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/panoply/>)
> which seems to open the netCDF files very easily and provides me with
> information about the variables contained and also seems to be able to
> plot data onto maps very easily. Is this essentially doing what the
> `ncdump -h` command does?
>
> If anyone could guide me through a step-by-step guide to downloading
> the netCDF software onto my Mac and also letting me know whether I can
> do the equivalent command directly in IDLDE I would be very grateful.
>
> Thanks
> Chloé

Hi Chloe,

You are trying to read the NetCDF files. I am giving one program. You can try this one, and it will tell what the parameters are available in your Netcdf file. using that you can read the netCDF

file. just give your filename at line number 698. Still, if have any problem reading the program tell me I will give one sample NetCDF file and how to read the program also. I am using different types of data formats.
best of luck.

The IDL program file.
<http://www.mathstat.dal.ca/~kishore/>

Thanks

Kishore
