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Subject: NetCDF: Converting time variable using start time from "units"

Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Mon, 14 Sep 2015 20:33:41 GMT

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I've been reading and writing NetCDF files using IDL for some time. Now I'm wondering whether there's a better way to convert the values in the "time" variable to real times than by using ncdump to get the units from the attributes and then hard coding the offset into my routines. I can read the units, e.g.,

```
time:units = "minutes since 2007-01-26 01:30:00"
```

using `ncdf_attget`, but don't know of any way IDL can understand this information and automatically apply the offset to the values in "time". I've heard a rumor that this can be done. Any suggestions? Thanks.

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