
Subject: Re: how to search if a variable exists in a file
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 23:25:28 GMT
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Xiaohua Pan writes:

> I am dealing with a set of stations which unfortunately contain
different variables (netcdf formate). For example, Some stations have
the variables, say 'temperature' and 'pressure', while some stations
only have 'temperature'. When I read data with DO loop the stations, I
would like to search the variable first, so I can skip those variables
not existing to avoid the crash of program. I found a function of
file_search(), but can't find a similar function for a variable. Is
there anyone know how to do it? Thanks.

```
>  
> DO i_station = 0, n-1 do begin  
>   DO i_var = 0, 1 do begin  
>     ; How to skip the variable if it doesn't exit ???  
>   ENDFOR  
> ENDFOR
```

If you were to use the netCDF programs in the Coyote Library to work
with your netCDF files, you could use the method HasVar to tell you if a
file contains a variable with a particular name:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/fileio_tips/ncdf_browser.html

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
