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Subject: Re: on reading NCDF files  
Posted by [Chris Lee](#) on Tue, 20 Jan 2004 09:35:11 GMT  
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In article <3ee6ff80.0401192300.534dc5b1@posting.google.com>, "Sangwoo"  
<leesw@astro.snu.ac.kr> wrote:

> Hi everyone!<snip>...  
> I wonder if there's any way to figure out  
> all details of the included variables from an NCDF file directly.

NetCDF wouldn't be terribly useful if you needed to know what was in  
there before using it :)

result=ncdf\_inquire(cdfid)  
; result is a struct containing the number of variables, dimensions and  
attributes

var=ncdf\_varinq(cdfid, varid)  
;where 0 <= varid < result.nvars  
;var is a struct containing the variable name, datatype, dimensions, etc.

ncdf\_varget, cdfid, varid, data  
;gets the data, as ever.

There's also NCDF\_DIMINQ which does similar things for the dimensions in  
the file.

Chris.

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Subject: Re: on reading NCDF files  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 20 Jan 2004 13:57:40 GMT  
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Sangwoo wrote:

> Hi everyone!  
>  
> I'm gonna read a NCDF file. It may contain several variables within  
> itself. When I extract a variable named "image", the procedure is as  
> follows:  
>  
> cid=ncdf\_open('test.nc')  
> vid=ncdf\_varid(cid,'image')  
> ncdf\_varget,cid,vid,image  
>  
> But suppose I don't know the name of each variable unfortunately. Is

> there any way to figure out the details of the included  
> variables(name, dimension, etc.)? The second command fails when I put  
> a wrong variable. And is there any way to read the included variables  
> all at once? (something like /all keyword)  
>  
> I wonder if there's any way to figure out all details of the included  
> variables from an NCDF file directly.

Dear Sangwoo

you could try our read\_ncdf function.

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/read\\_ncdf\\_dbase.pro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/read_ncdf_dbase.pro.html)

This routine reads all international defined attributes and some more.  
The attributes has to be defined in a definition routine, e.g. def\_icg.  
A different diffinition could be given with a keyword: def\_struct

you could call it this way

x=read\_ncdf(file) reads everything of parameters  
x=read\_ncdf(file,[var1,var2]) var1 ... short\_name of parameter,  
all coordination parameters are readed too

x=read\_ncdf(file, /raw,/as\_pointer) result is a structure all values are  
pointer, no valid index vectors are creaeted no scale\_factor no  
add\_offset is used.

x=read\_ncdf(file,/status) additional info about definition of varibales  
is added

There are more keywords available. And there are lots of routines for  
the ICG-DATA-STRUCTURE in our libray at

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

regards  
Reimar

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