
Subject: Re: How can I know all the information of a CDF file?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 16 Apr 2009 18:54:41 GMT
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litongmu@gmail.com writes:

> I am not sure whether there is anyone who is working on CDF files. But
> if there is, I want to ask how you get the variable information, like
> the variable name. I know how to do that in Matlab. But as to
> manipulating CDF files, Matlab is not as powerful as IDL. So I want to
> switch to IDL. But I do not want to use them both. Because one of my
> machine do not have a Matlab license. So please tell me if you know
> the answer.

I've not done this, but I think you would do
it something like this:

```
fID = CDF_Open(filename)
info = CDF_Inquire(fID)
nvars = info.nvars
FOR j=0,nvars-1 DO BEGIN
    varInfo = CDF_VarInq(fID, j)
    Help, varInfo, /Structure
    Print, 'Variable Name: ', varInfo.name
ENDFOR
CDF_Close, fID
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: How can I know all the information of a CDF file?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 16 Apr 2009 18:56:11 GMT
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> if there is, I want to ask how you get the variable information, like
> the variable name. I know how to do that in Matlab. But as to
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> switch to IDL. But I do not want to use them both. Because one of my
> machine do not have a Matlab license. So please tell me if you know

> the answer.

I've not done this, but I think you would do it something like this:

```
PRO CDFVARNAME
fID = CDF_Open(filename)
info = CDF_Inquire(fID)
nvars = info.nvars
FOR j=0,nvars-1 DO BEGIN
    varInfo = CDF_VarInq(fID, j)
    Help, varInfo, /Structure
    Print, 'Variable Name: ', varInfo.name
ENDFOR
CDF_Close, fID
END
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Subject: Re: How can I know all the information of a CDF file?
Posted by [russell.grew](#) on Thu, 16 Apr 2009 23:20:09 GMT
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If you want a softer approach I suggest downloading CDAWlib and playing around with some of the routines in there.

The CDFx GUI is a nice graphical way [you Matlab users like GUI's right?] of coming to terms with the contents of a given CDF quickly.

I have also found some the Berkeley CDF routines useful. They can be found in the IDL libraries for various missions [FAST, THEMIS etc]

Cheers.
