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Subject: Re: Point Observations from NARR output  
Posted by [B.J. Baule](#) on Thu, 07 Apr 2011 20:31:36 GMT  
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On Apr 7, 3:25 pm, "B.J. Baule" <[guitarplayer\\_...@comcast.net](mailto:guitarplayer_...@comcast.net)> wrote:

> Hello all,  
>  
> This is probably a really simple problem however my inexperience  
> with IDL has left me baffled. I'm relatively new to IDL programming  
> and have a question regarding getting grid point values from NARR  
> reanalysis output. I can get the data to open, read in, and make a  
> map. However, I would like to get point observations from the  
> reanalysis data set (Ex. July Temperature for Barrow, AK Lat:  
> 71.2905556 Lon:-156.7886111).  
>  
> The three variables that I've pulled from the netCDF file are  
> air temp (air), latitude, longitude. With the HELP function in IDL, I  
> find that the dimensions of the arrays are: air = ARRAY[349, 277, 12],  
> rlats = ARRAY[349,277], rlons = ARRAY[349,277]. As I understand it,  
> the Lambert Conformal Conic Grid is a 349x277 grid. It has been  
> suggested to me that I should be working in x y coordinates. When I  
> try and pull x and y from the netcdf file, I get arrays but they are  
> both 277 element single dimension arrays. I'd expected the x array to  
> be 349 elements and y to be 277 elements. If I could get a 349 element  
> x array and a 277 element y array, then maybe I could use  
> MAP\_PROJ\_INVERSE to get lat lon values for these grid points?  
>  
> Sorry if this is an elementary question that has an easy solution  
> that I'm overlooking. Does anyone have experience doing this? Any help  
> would be greatly appreciated.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> B.J.  
>  
> (I've attached a copy of the code I've tried to build, sorry about the  
> lack of comments):  
>  
> PRO TRYIT\_XY  
>  
> Compile\_Opt defint32  
> ;define number of latitudes/longitudes  
> nlons=349  
> nlats=277  
>  
> vararray2 = fltarr(nlons,nlats)  
> vararray = fltarr(nlons,nlats,12)  
> vararrayin = fltarr(nlons,nlats)  
> rlons = fltarr(nlons,nlats)

```

> rlats = fltarr(nlons,nlats)
>
> ;Open file get variable id's
> infile = '/Users/snr-wbaule/Desktop/Reanalysis_Data/air.2m.mon.ltm.nc '
> nunit = ncdf_open(infile,/nowrite)
> ivarid = ncdf_varid(nunit,'air')
> ilatid = ncdf_varid(nunit,'y')
> ilonid = ncdf_varid(nunit,'x')
>
> ;Get scale and offset attributes from netCDF file
> NCDF_ATTGET,nunit,'air','add_offset', add_offset
> NCDF_ATTGET,nunit,'air','scale_factor',xscale
>
> ; apply offset and scale factor to air temp data for all months
> for itime = 0,11,1 do begin
>   offset = [0,0,itime]
>   count = [nlons,nlats,1]
>
>   ncdf_varget,nunit,ivarid,temp, OFFSET=offset
>   vararray[*,* ,itime] = vararray2 + (xscale*FLOAT(temp)) + add_offset
>
> endfor
> ; get lat and lon arrays from file
> ncdf_varget,nunit,ilatid,rlats,OFFSET=[0,0],$
>   count = [nlons,nlats]
> ncdf_varget,nunit,ilonid,rlons,OFFSET=[0,0],$
>   count = [nlons,nlats]
>
> HELP, vararray ,rlats, rlons
>
> ;reproject data with parameters found in netCDF file
> result = MAP_PROJ_INIT(104, CENTER_LATITUDE=0,
> CENTER_LONGITUDE=-107,STANDARD_PAR1=50.0,$
> STANDARD_PAR2=50.0, DATUM=8, /GCTP, LIMIT=[12.2, -133.5, 54.5, -152.,
> 57.3, -49.4, 14.3,-65.1]); FALSE_EASTING=5632642.22547,
> FALSE_NORTHING=4612545.65137)
> ;convert to x y
> result2 = MAP_PROJ_FORWARD(rlons, rlats, MAP_STRUCTURE=result)
> ;convert x y to lat lon to check values.
> result3 = MAP_PROJ_INVERSE(result2, MAP_STRUCTURE=result)
>
> END

```

Sorry: ilatid should be latid and ilonid should be lonid

```
latid = ncdf_varid(nunit,'lat')
```

```
lonid = ncdf_varid(nunit,'lon')
```

Subject: Re: Point Observations from NARR output  
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Thu, 07 Apr 2011 22:06:56 GMT  
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In article

<ae2b9885-d9aa-42b6-b3d5-6418072f19e6@f11g2000vbx.googlegroups.com>,  
"B.J. Baule" <guitarplayer\_101@comcast.net> wrote:

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> map. However, I would like to get point observations from the  
> reanalysis data set (Ex. July Temperature for Barrow, AK Lat:  
> 71.2905556 Lon:-156.7886111).

I suggest that you compute the great circle distance between  
Point Barrow and all of the longitude-latitude points on the  
NARR grid. Then find the minimum. You only have to do this once.  
That will tell you which grid point is closest to Barrow.

If you insist on interpolating to Barrow, you will have to  
do that in Cartesian coordinates on the Lambert conformal grid.  
Probably not worth it, in my opinion.

To compute great circle distance use MAP\_2POINTS. (One of my  
nominations for least-intuitive and least-mnemonic routine name  
in IDL.) You will spend half an hour trying to get all of  
the units and keywords right, but it does work.

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: Point Observations from NARR output  
Posted by [B.J. Baule](#) on Fri, 08 Apr 2011 00:11:47 GMT  
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On Apr 7, 5:06 pm, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bow...@null.edu> wrote:

> In article

> < ae2b9885-d9aa-42b6-b3d5-6418072f1...@f11g2000vbx.googlegroup s.com > ,

> "B.J. Baule" <guitarplayer\_...@comcast.net> wrote:

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>  
> Ken Bowman

Thanks Ken. I'll give this a try tomorrow. :)

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