
Subject: how to list variable names from netCDF file?

Posted by [f055](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 1995 08:00:00 GMT

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Can anyone help me with the following problem?

I am trying to write some IDL code to read in a number of netCDF files, without knowing in advance the names of the variables in the file. Is there a routine which can return the variable name of the Nth variable in the file?

Once open, I can use `ncdf_inquire` to find the number of variables, but `ncdf_varinq` says it can only return the name of a variable if you give it the variable's id, which can be got from calling `ncdf_varid`. But `ncdf_varid` requires the variables name! What I need is an equivalent of `ncdf_attname`, which returns the name of the Nth attribute.

What's the solution?

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Subject: Re: how to list variable names from netCDF file?

Posted by [Andy Lough](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 1995 08:00:00 GMT

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T.Osborn wrote:

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Maybe the documentation is causing you trouble (imagine that!).

Here is a small example...

```
file = '/Datasets/nmc/uwnd.79.nc'  
ncid = NCDF_OPEN( file )  
result = NCDF_INQUIRE( ncid )  
num_vars = result.NVARS  
for i = 0, num_vars-1 do print, ncdf_varinq(ncid,i)
```

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