

# Parallel I/O and Portable Data Formats PnetCDF and NetCDF 4

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# Outline


- Introduction
  - Difference PnetCDF and NetCDF4
- Basic file handling
  - File creation
  - Definitions
  - Writing data
  - Reading data
- Advanced file operations
  - Data set inquiry
  - Flexible data mode interface and access types
  - Performance hints

# Introduction to (Parallel) NetCDF

- NetCDF is a portable, self-describing file format developed by Unidata at UCAR (University Cooperation for Atmospheric Research)
  - <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>
- NetCDF does not provide a parallel API prior to 4.0 (NetCDF4 uses HDF5 parallel capabilities)
- PnetCDF is maintained by Argonne National Laboratory (API very similar to standard NetCDF)
  - <http://trac.mcs.anl.gov/projects/parallel-netcdf/>

PnetCDF  $\neq$  NetCDF4



Focus of this presentation, major differences towards NetCDF4 will be highlighted by 

# PnetCDF or NetCDF4

- NetCDF4:
  - Function Prefix: `nc_...` / `nf[90]_...`
  - Uses **HDF5** or **PnetCDF** for parallel file access
  - State machine based access mode (default: independent)
  - `size_t` size definition
  - `NC_NETCDF4` format (Classic and 64-Bit-offset format only by using PnetCDF access)
- PnetCDF:
  - Function Prefix: `ncmpi_...` / `nf[90]mpi_...`
  - Uses **mpio** for parallel file access
  - State machine based access mode (default: collective) and function based postfix needed: `..._all`
  - `MPI_Offset` size definition
  - **Classic, `NC_64BIT_OFFSET` and `NC_64BIT_DATA` format**

# Terms and definitions

## Dimension

An entity that can either describe a physical dimension of a dataset, such as time, latitude, etc., as well as an index to sets of stations or model-runs.

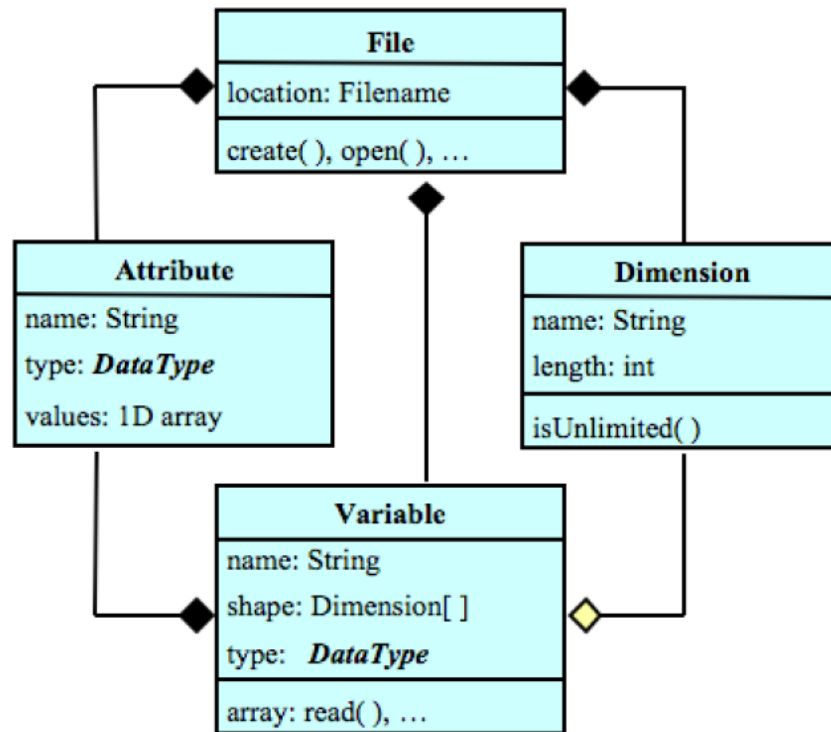
## Variable

An entity that stores the bulk of the data. It represents an n-dimensional array of values of the same type.

## Attribute

An entity to store data on the datasets contained in the file or the file itself. The latter are called *global attributes*.

# NetCDF Classic model



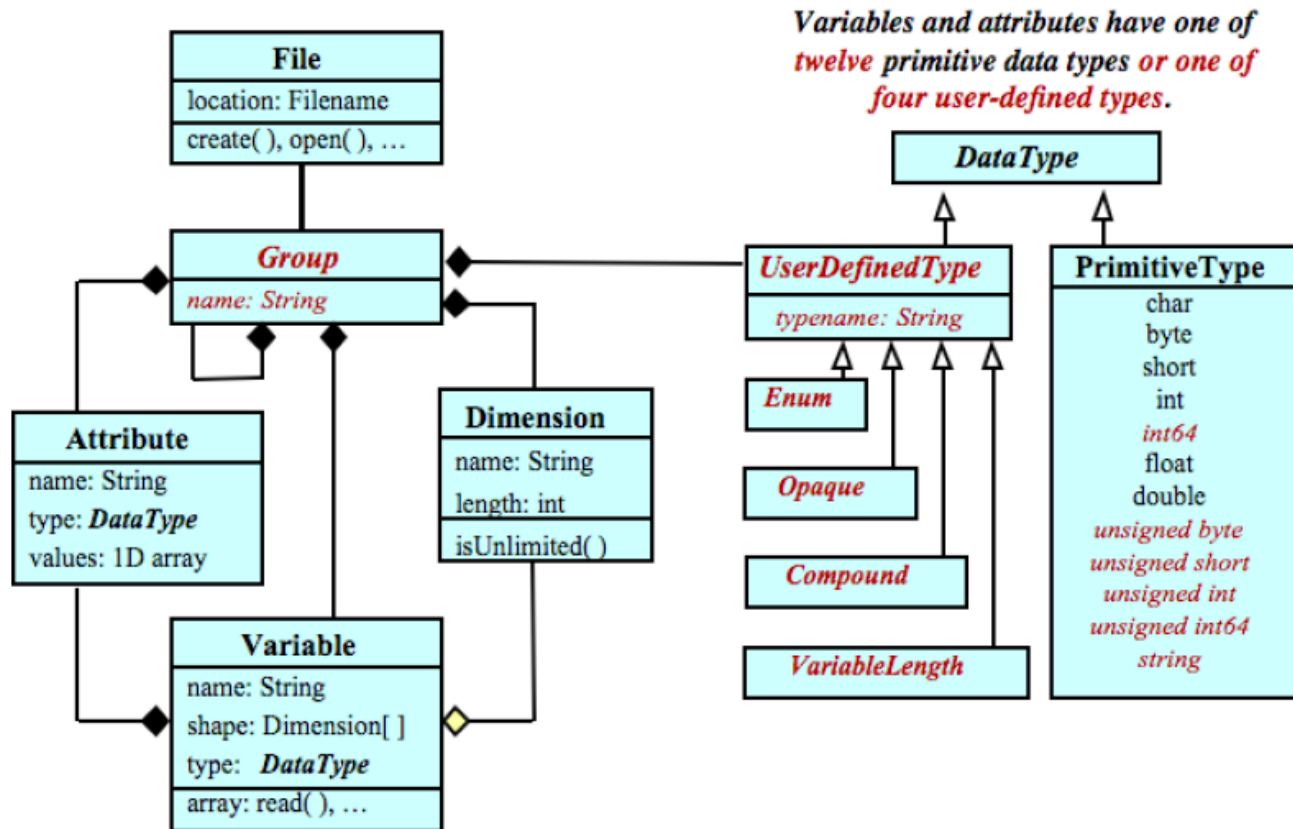
*Variables and attributes have one of six primitive data types.*

<i>DataType</i>
char
byte
short
int
float
double

*A file has named variables, dimensions, and attributes. Variables also have attributes. Variables may share dimensions, indicating a common grid. One dimension may be of unlimited length.*

Hartnett, E., 2010-09: NetCDF and HDF5 - HDF5 Workshop 2010.

# NetCDF4 model



*A file has a top-level unnamed group. Each group may contain one or more named subgroups, user-defined types, variables, dimensions, and attributes. Variables also have attributes. Variables may share dimensions, indicating a common grid. One or more dimensions may be of unlimited length.*

Hartnett, E., 2010-09: NetCDF and HDF5 - HDF5 Workshop 2010.

# Naming conventions

- Sequence of alphanumeric characters, `_`, `.`, `+`, `-`, `@`
- Must begin with a letter or underscore
  - Name with underscores are reserved for system use
- Names are case sensitive
- Other conventions may restrict names even more



# Dimensions

- Can represent a physical dimension like time, height, latitude, longitude, etc.
- Can be used to index other quantities, e.g., station number
- Have a name and length
- Can have either a fixed length or 'UNLIMITED'
  - In *classic* and *64bit offset* files at most one
- NETCDF4 allows multiple unlimited dimensions
- Used to define the shape of variables
- Can be used more than once in a variable declaration
  - Use only more than once, where semantically useful

# Variables

- Store the bulk data in the dataset
- Regarded as  $n$ -dimensional array
  - Scalar values represented as 0-dimensional arrays
- Have a name, type and shape
  - Shape is defined through dimensions
- Once created, cannot be deleted or altered in shape
- Variable types (classic model)
  - byte, character, short, int, float, double
- Variables with one unlimited dimension are called *record variables*, otherwise *fixed variables*
- A position along a dimension can be specified as index
  - Starting at 0 in C and 1 in Fortran

# Coordinate variables

- Variables can have the same name as dimensions
- Have no special semantic in NetCDF itself
- By convention, applications using NetCDF should treat them in a special way
- Usually describes a coordinate corresponding to that dimension
- Each coordinate variable is a vector that's shape is defined by the dimension of the same name

# Attributes

- Used to store meta data of variables or the complete data set (global attributes)
- Have a name, a type, a length, and a value
- Treated as vector
  - Scalar values as single-element vectors

# Attribute Conventions Examples

`units` – character string that specifies the units used for a variable

`long_name` – long descriptive name for a variable

`valid_min` – value specifying the minimum valid value for a variable

`valid_max` – value specifying the maximum valid value for a variable

`valid_range` – vector of two numbers specifying the minimum and maximum valid value for a variable

...

For more, please read the Appendix B: Attribute Conventions of the NetCDF User Guide

<https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/docs/netcdf/Attribute-Conventions.html>

# Datatypes

The NetCDF classic and 64-bit offset file format only support basic types

C	Fortran	Storage
NC_BYTE	NF[90]_BYTE	8-bit signed integer
NC_CHAR	NF[90]_CHAR	8-bit unsigned integer
NC_SHORT	NF[90]_SHORT	16-bit signed integer
NC_INT	NF[90]_INT	32-bit signed integer
NC_FLOAT	NF[90]_FLOAT	32-bit floating point
NC_DOUBLE	NF[90]_DOUBLE	64-bit floating point

**NETCDF4 format also allows NC\_STRING, NC\_INT64, unsigned datatypes and user defined datatypes**

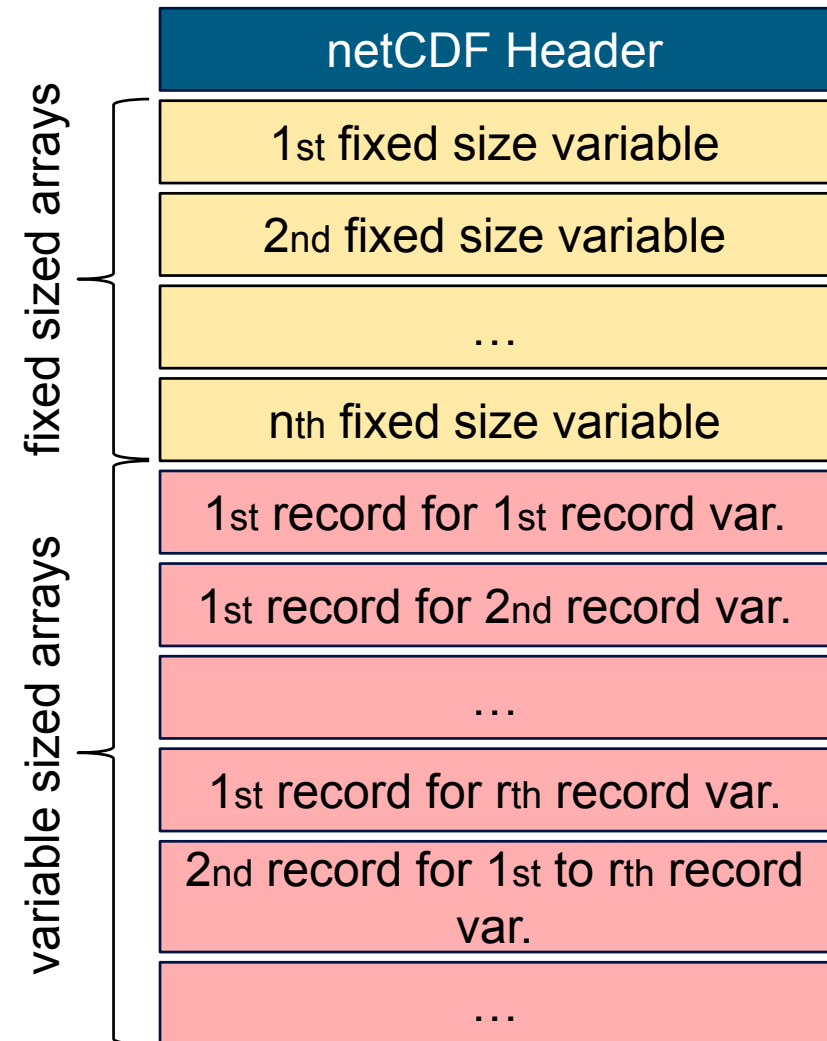
# The classic NetCDF file format

NetCDF dataset definition

$n$  arrays of fixed dimensions

$r$  arrays with its most significant dimension set to UNLIMITED records are defined by the remaining dimensions

Limitations	classic	64bit off.	64bit data
max. dim. size	$2^{31}$	$2^{32}$	$> 2^{32}$
max. num. elem.	$2^{32}$	$2^{32}$	$> 2^{32}$
max. var. size	2GiB	4GiB	$> 4GiB$



# Workflow: Creating a NetCDF data set

- Create a new dataset
  - A new file is created and NetCDF is left in define mode
- Describe contents of the file
  - Define **dimensions** for the variables
  - Define **variables** using the dimensions
  - Store **attributes** if needed
- Switch to data mode
  - Header is written and definition of the file content is completed
- Store variables in file
  - Parallel NetCDF distinguishes between collective and individual data mode
  - Initially in collective mode, user has to switch to individual data mode explicitly
- Close file

Default fill behaviour:

NetCDF: NC\_FILL, PnetCDF: NC\_NOFILL,  
nc\_set\_fill can change behaviour

NETCDF4: initially independent mode



# Header files

```
C #include <pnetcdf.h>
```

```
Fortran use pnetcdf  
or  
include 'pnetcdf.inc'
```

- Contain definition of
  - constants
  - functions

```
NETCDF4:  
#include <netcdf_par.h>  
#include <netcdf.h>  
  
use netcdf  
or  
include 'netcdf.inc'
```

# Creating a file

**C**

```
int ncmpi_create(MPI_Comm comm,
                 const char* filename, int cmode,
                 MPI_Info info, int* ncid)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_CREATE(COMM, FILENAME, CMODE, INFO,
                     NCID)
CHARACTER*(*) FILENAME
INTEGER COMM, MODE, INFO, NCID
```

NF90MPI\_...  
 can be used  
 when using F90

- Call is collective over `comm`
- `ncid` is the id of the internal file handle
- `cmode` must specify at least one of the following
  - (NC/NF) `_CLOBBER` – Create new file and overwrite, if it existed before
  - (NC/NF) `_NO_CLOBBER` – Create new file only, if it did not exist before
- Choose file format on file creation
  - default - classic format
  - (NC/NF) `_64BIT_OFFSET` - 64-bit offset format
  - (NC/NF) `_64BIT_DATA` - 64-bit data format

# Creating a file **NETCDF4**

**C**

```
int nc_create_par(const char* filename, int cmode,  
                  MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Info info,  
                  int* ncid)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NF_CREATE_PAR(FILENAME, CMODE, COMM, INFO,  
                      NCID)  
CHARACTER*(*) FILENAME  
INTEGER COMM, MODE, INFO, NCID
```

NF90\_...  
can be used  
when using F90

- Call is collective over `comm`
- `ncid` is the id of the internal file handle
- `cmode` must specify at least one of the following
  - `(NC/NF)_CLOBBER` – Create new file and overwrite, if it existed before
  - `(NC/NF)_NO_CLOBBER` – Create new file only, if it did not exist before
- Choose file format on file creation
  - default - classic format (PnetCDF)
  - `(NC/NF)_64BIT_OFFSET` - 64-bit offset format (PnetCDF)
  - `(NC/NF)_NETCDF4` | `(NC/NF)_MPIIO` - NetCDF4 format (HDF5)

# Open an existing NetCDF data set

**C**

```
int ncmpi_open(MPI_Comm comm, const char* filename,  
               int omode, MPI_Info info, int* ncid)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_OPEN(COMM, FILENAME, OMODE, INFO,  
                   NCID)  
CHARACTER* (*) FILENAME  
INTEGER COMM, OMODE, INFO, NCID
```

- Call is collective over `comm`
- `ncid` is the id of the internal file handle
- `omode` must specify at least one of the following
  - `(NC/NF)_WRITE` – Open file for any kind of change to the file
  - `(NC/NF)_NOWRITE` – Open the file read-only

**NETCDF4:**

```
[nc,nf]_open_par(filename, omode, comm, info, ncid)
```

# Closing a file

**C** `int ncmpi_close(int ncid)`

**Fortran** `INTEGER NFMPI_CLOSE (NCID)  
INTEGER NCID`

- Close file associated with `ncid`

**NETCDF4:**  
`[nc,nf]_close(ncid)`

# Error handling

**C** `const char * ncmpi_strerror(int status)`

**Fortran** `CHARACTER*80 NFMPI_STRERROR(STATUS)  
INTEGER STATUS`

- Return status string representation
- `(NC/NF)_NOERR` can be used to check status

# Exercise

## Exercise 1 – NetCDF hello world

- Create a parallel application (C or Fortran) which creates an empty NetCDF file (you can use the PnetCDF-API or the NetCDF4-API)
- Compile, link and execute the application

### **PnetCDF, C:**

```
module load intel-para
module load parallel-netcdf/1.7.0
mpicc helloworld_pnetcdf.c -lpnetcdf
```

### **PnetCDF, Fortran:**

```
module load intel-para
module load parallel-netcdf/1.7.0
mpif90 helloworld_pnetcdf.f90 -lpnetcdf
```

### **NetCDF4, C:**

```
module load intel-para
module load netCDF/4.4.0
mpicc helloworld_netcdf.c -lnetcdf
```

### **NetCDF4, Fortran:**

```
module load intel-para
module load netCDF-Fortran/4.4.3
mpif90 helloworld_netcdf.f90 -lnetcdff
```

- **Templates and Solutions:** /work/hpclab/train001

# Defining dimensions

**C**

```
int ncmpi_def_dim(int ncid, const char* name,  
                  MPI_Offset len, int* dimid)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_DEF_DIM(NCID, NAME, LEN, DIMID)  
CHARACTER*(*) NAME  
INTEGER NCID, DIMID  
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) LEN
```

- name represents the name of the dimension
- len represents the value
  - (NC/NF) `_UNLIMITED` will create an unlimited dimension
- Can only be called in *definition mode*



# Defining variables

**C**

```
int ncmpi_def_var(int ncid, const char* name,  
                 nc_type xtype, int ndims,  
                 const int* dimids, int* varid)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_DEF_VAR(NCID, NAME, XTYPE, NDIMS,  
                     DIMIDS, VARID)  
  
CHARACTER*(*) NAME  
INTEGER, NCID, XTYPE, NDIMS, VARID  
INTEGER(*) DIMIDS
```

F90: NDIMS not needed

- `xtype` specifies the external type of this variable
- `dimids` is an array of size `ndims`
- Can only be called in *definition mode*

# Defining attributes

**C**

```
int ncmpi_put_att<type>(int ncid, int varid,
                        const char* name, nc_type xtype,
                        MPI_Offset len, const <type>*attr)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_PUT_ATT<type>(NCID, VARID, NAME,
                              XTYPE, LEN, ATTR)
```

```
<type> ATTR
CHARACTER*(*) NAME
INTEGER NCID, VARID, XTYPE
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) LEN
```

**F90:** <type>, XTYPE and LEN not needed:  
 NF90MPI\_PUT\_ATT(  
   NCID, VARID, NAME,  
   ATTR)

- Puts the attribute `attr` into the data set
- `varid` is the id annotated variable, or `(NC/NF)_GLOBAL`, if it is a global attribute
- `xtype` specifies the external type of this attribute
- Can only be called in *definition mode*

**NETCDF4 uses `size_t` (C) / `INTEGER` (FORTRAN) for `len`**

# Reading attributes

**C**

```
int ncmpi_get_att<type>(int ncid, int varid,  
                        const char* name, <type>*attr)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_GET_ATT<type>(NCID, VARID, NAME,  
                             ATTR)
```

```
<type> ATTR
```

```
CHARACTER*(*) NAME
```

```
INTEGER NCID, VARID
```

**F90:**

```
NF90MPI_GET_ATT(...)
```

- Reads the attribute `attr` from the data set
- `varid` is the id annotated variable, or `(NC/NF)_GLOBAL`, if it is a global attribute

# Closing define mode

**C** `int ncmpi_enddef(int ncid)`

**Fortran** `INTEGER NFMPI_ENDDEF(NCID)  
INTEGER NCID`

- Ends the definition phase, and switches to collective data mode **NETCDF4: independent data mode**
- Once variables have been put into the data set, definitions must not be altered

**Not explicitly needed for NETCDF4 file format**

# Exercise

## Exercise 2 – NetCDF attributes and dimensions

- Extend your existing parallel application (C or Fortran)
- Create a dimension of size `100 × NUMBER_OF_PROCS`
- Add a simple global integer attribute value
- Add an integer variable using your created dimension
- Compile, link and execute the application

Check the resulting file using:

`ncdump`, `ncmpi_dump` and `h5dump`

# Switching data modes

```
C int ncmpid_begin_indep_data(int ncid)
```

```
Fortran INTEGER NFMPI_BEGIN_INDEP_DATA(NCID)  
INTEGER NCID
```

- Switches from collective data mode to individual data mode

```
C int ncmpid_end_indep_data(int ncid)
```

```
Fortran INTEGER NFMPI_END_INDEP_DATA(NCID)  
INTEGER NCID
```

- Switches from individual data mode to collective data mode

```
NETCDF4:nc_var_par_access(ncid, varid,  
[NC_INDEPENDENT, NC_COLLECTIVE])
```

# Writing variables (collectively)

**C**

```
int ncmpi_put_vara_<type>[_all](int ncid, int varid,
                                const MPI_Offset start[],
                                const MPI_Offset count[],
                                const <type>* var)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_PUT_VARA_<type>[_ALL] (NCID, VARID,
                                       START, COUNT, VAR)

<type>(*) VAR
INTEGER NCID, VARID
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) START, COUNT
```

- Writes a *slab* of data to the file referenced by `ncid`
- Slab is defined by *n*-dimensional arrays `start` and `count`
- `_all` can only be used in collective mode

**NETCDF4: `_all` not needed**

**F90:**

```
nf90mpi_put_var[_all](
    ncid, varid, var, start?,
    count?, stride?, imap?)
```

# Writing variables (collectively)



```
int ncmpi_put_vara_<type>[_all](int ncid, int varid,
                                const MPI_Offset start[],
                                const MPI_Offset count[],
                                const <type>* var)
```

buf in memory can be in any shape,  
but must be of size `count[0]*count[1]`

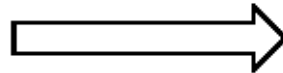
a	b	c	d
e	f	g	h
i	j	k	l
m	n	o	p

or

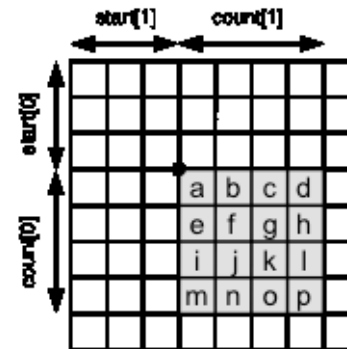
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p

or ...

put\_vara



the array variable defined  
in the file is a 2D array



source: PnetCDF C Interface Guide, <http://cucis.ece.northwestern.edu/projects/PnetCDF/doc/pnetcdf-c/>



# Reading variables (collectively)

**C**

```
int ncmpi_get_vara_<type>[_all](int ncid, int varid,  
                                const MPI_Offset start[],  
                                const MPI_Offset count[],  
                                <type>* var)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_GET_VARA_<type>[_ALL] (NCID, VARID,  
                                       START, COUNT, VAR)  
  
<type>(*) VAR  
INTEGER NCID, VARID  
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) START, COUNT
```

- Reads a *slab* of data of the file referenced by `ncid`
- Slab is defined by  $n$ -dimensional arrays `start` and `count`
- `_all` can only be used in collective mode

NETCDF4: `_all` not needed

# Workflow: Reading a NetCDF data set

- Open a data set
  - Inquire contents of data set
    - Inquire **dimensions** for allocation dimensions
    - Inquire **variables** for id of the desired variable
    - Inquire **attributes** for additional information
  - Allocate memory according to shape of variables
  - Read variables from file
    - Parallel NetCDF distinguishes between collective and individual data mode
    - Initially in collective mode, user has to switch to individual data mode explicitly
  - Close file
- NETCDF4: initially independent mode**

# Motivation for data set inquiry

- A generic application should be able to handle the data set correctly
- Semantic information must be encoded in names and attributes
  - Conventions need to be set up and used for a given data set class
- Data set structure can be reconstructed from the file

# Inquiry of number of data set entities

```
C int ncmpi_inq_ndims(int ncid, int* ndims)
```

```
Fortran INTEGER NFMPI_INQ_NDIMS(NCID, NDIMS)  
INTEGER NCID, NDIMS
```

```
Fortran90: nf90mpi_inquire_variable
```

- Query number of dimensions

```
C int ncmpi_inq_nvars(int ncid, int* nvars)
```

```
Fortran INTEGER NFMPI_INQ_NVARS(NCID, NVARS)  
INTEGER NCID, NVARS
```

```
Fortran90: nf90mpi_inquire_variable
```

- Query number of variables

```
C int ncmpi_inq_natts(int ncid, int* natts)
```

```
Fortran INTEGER NFMPI_INQ_NATTS(NCID, NATTS)  
INTEGER NCID, NATTS
```

```
Fortran90: nf90mpi_inquire_variable
```

- Query number of attributes

# Inquiry of ids of data set entities

**C**

```
int ncmpi_inq_varid(int ncid, const char* name,  
                   int* varid)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_INQ_VARID(NCID, NAME, VARID)  
INTEGER NCID, VARID  
CHARACTER*(*) NAME
```

- Query id of variable given by name

**C**

```
int ncmpi_inq_varidimid(int ncid, int varid,  
                        int* dimids)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_INQ_VARDIMID(NCID, VARID, DIMIDS)  
INTEGER NCID, VARID,  
INTEGER* DIMIDS
```

Fortran90: nf90mpi\_inquire\_variable

- Query dimids for given varid

# Inquiry of dimension lens

**C**

```
int ncmpi_inq_dimlen(int ncid, int dimid,  
                    MPI_Offset* len)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_INQ_DIMLEN(NCID, DIMID, LEN)  
INTEGER NCID, DIMID  
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) LEN
```

```
Fortran90: nf90mpi_inquire_dimension
```

- Reads `len` from a given dimension

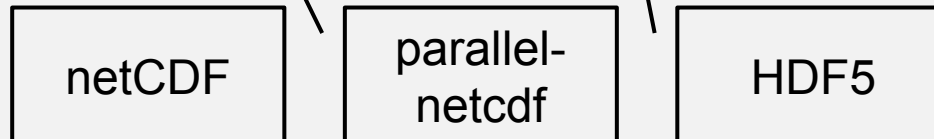
# Exercise

## Exercise 3 – NetCDF write data collectively

- Extend your existing parallel application (C or Fortran)
- Each process should allocate a vector of 100 integers initialized with its task number
- Each task should write its vector to the NetCDF data set as a part of the global vector created in exercise 2:  
e.g.: 0000...1111...2222...
- Write should be collective

Check the resulting file using:

`ncdump`, `ncmpidump` and `h5dump`



# Flexible API PnetCDF only

**C**

```
int ncmpi_put_vara[_all](int ncid, int varid,
    const MPI_Offset start[],
    const MPI_Offset count[],
    const void* buf, const MPI_Offset elements,
    MPI_Datatype datatype)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_PUT_VARA[_ALL] (NCID, VARID, START,
    COUNT, BUF,
    ELEMENTS, DATATYPE)

<type> (*) BUF
INTEGER NCID, VARID, DATATYPE
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) START, COUNT,
    ELEMENTS
```

F90: not needed

- Writes a *slab* of data to the file referenced by `ncid`
- Slab is defined by *n*-dimensional arrays `start` and `count`
- Can only be used in collective data mode
- `start`, `count` refer to the data in the file
- `buf`, `elements`, and `datatype` refer to the data in memory



# Flexible API PnetCDF only

**C**

```
int ncmpi_get_vara[_all](int ncid, int varid,
    const MPI_Offset start[],
    const MPI_Offset count[],
    const void* buf, const MPI_Offset elements,
    MPI_Datatype datatype)
```

**Fortran**

```
INTEGER NFMPI_GET_VARA[_ALL] (NCID, VARID, START,
    COUNT, BUF,
    ELEMENTS, DATATYPE)

<type> (*) BUF
INTEGER NCID, VARID, DATATYPE
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) START, COUNT,
    ELEMENTS
```

F90: not needed

- Reads a *slab* of data of the file referenced by `ncid`
- Slab is defined by *n*-dimensional arrays `start` and `count`
- Can only be used in collective data mode
- `start`, `count` refer to the data in the file
- `buf`, `elements`, and `datatype` refer to the data in memory

# Non-blocking interface

PnetCDF only

- Can aggregate multiple smaller requests into larger ones for better I/O performance

C

```
int ncmpi_iput_vara_<type>(int ncid, int varid,  
                           const MPI_Offset start[],  
                           const MPI_Offset count[],  
                           const <type>* var,  
                           int* req_id)
```

Fortran

```
INTEGER NFMPI_IPUT_VARA_<type>(NCID, VARID, START,  
                                COUNT, VAR, REQ_ID)  
  
<type>(*) VAR  
INTEGER NCID, VARID, REQ_ID  
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND) START, COUNT
```

- `req_id` must be stored for later access

# Non-blocking interface

PnetCDF only

C

```
int ncmpi_wait(int ncid, int num_reqs,  
               int req_ids[], int statuses[])  
int ncmpi_wait_all(int ncid, int num_reqs,  
                   int req_ids[], int statuses[])
```

Fortran

```
INTEGER NFMPI_WAIT(NCID, NUM_REQS, REQ_IDS,  
                  STATUSES)  
INTEGER NCID, NUM_REQS,  
INTEGER(*) REQ_IDS, STATUSES  
INTEGER NFMPI_WAIT_ALL(NCID, NUM_REQS, REQ_IDS,  
                       STATUSES)
```

- Also buffered interface is available (bget/bput) which allows setting the internal buffer

C

```
int ncmpi_buffer_attach(int ncid, int bufsize)  
int ncmpi_buffer_detach(int ncid)
```

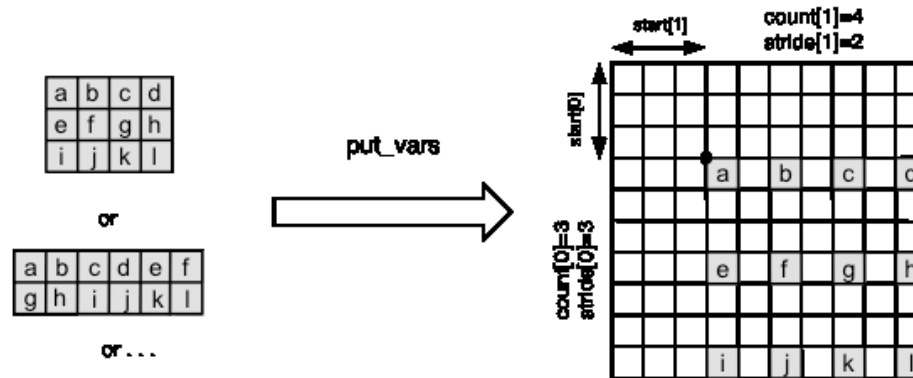
# Additional access types

F90: not needed

- Subsampled array of values (`vars`)

buf in memory can be in any shape,  
but must be of size `count[0]*count[1]`

the array variable defined  
in the file is a 2D array

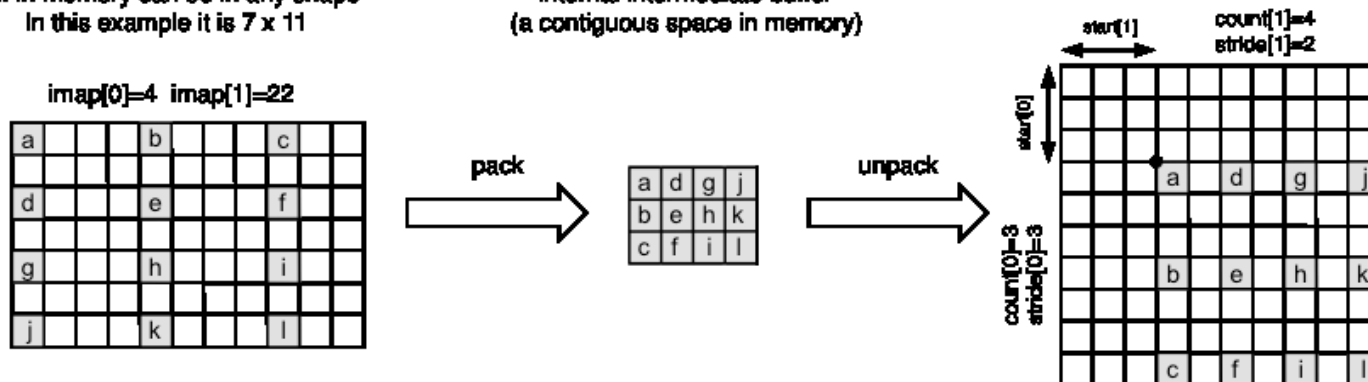


- Mapped array of values (`varm`)

buf in memory can be in any shape  
In this example it is 7 x 11

internal intermediate buffer  
(a contiguous space in memory)

the array variable defined  
in the file is a 2D array



source: PnetCDF C Interface Guide, <http://cucis.ece.northwestern.edu/projects/PnetCDF/doc/pnetcdf-c/>

# API matrix

PnetCDF only

ncmpi_... nfmpi_...	blocking	non-blocking	buffered
<b>single data value</b>	put_var1 get_var1	iput_var1 iget_var1	bput_var1 bget_var1 (since 1.3.0)
<b>array of values</b>	put_vara get_vara	iput_vara iget_vara	bput_vara bget_vara (since 1.3.0)
<b>subsamped array of values</b>	put_vars get_vars	iput_vars iget_vars	bput_vars bget_vars (since 1.3.0)
<b>mapped array of values</b>	put_varm get_varm	iput_varm iget_varm	bput_varm bget_varm (since 1.3.0)
<b>list of subarrays of values</b>	put_varn get_varn (since 1.4.0)	iput_varn iget_varn (since 1.6.0)	bput_varn bget_varn (since 1.6.0)

PnetCDF only

# Performance hints

- **Subfiling** **PnetCDF only**
  - Divides a file transparently into several smaller subfiles
  - Master file contains all metadata about array partitioning information among the subfiles
  - Transparent for user



```
MPI_Info_create(&info)
MPI_Info_set(info, "nc_num_subfiles", "4")
ncmpi_create(..., info, fh)
```

- **Chunking** **NetCDF4 only**
  - When a dataset is chunked, each chunk is read or written as a single I/O operation, and individually passed from stage to stage of the pipeline and filters (based on HDF5 chunking)



```
int nc_def_var_chunking(ncid, varid,
    [NC_CONTIGUOUS, NC_CHUNKED], size_t *chunksizesp)
```

# Exercise

## Exercise 4 – Mandelbrot set

- Implement a solution for the stride decomposition (`type = 0`) of the Mandelbrot example (`mandelpnetcdf.c` or `mandelpnetcdf.f90`)
- Use a collective blocking write call
- You will need the following `pnetcdf` (or equivalent `NetCDF4`) routines
  - `ncmpi_create` / `nf90mpi_create`
  - `ncmpi_def_dim` / `nf90mpi_def_dim`
  - `ncmpi_put_att_double` / `nf90mpi_put_att`
  - `ncmpi_def_var` / `nf90mpi_def_var`
  - `ncmpi_put_vara_int_all` / `nf90mpi_put_vara_all`
  - `ncmpi_close` / `nf90mpi_close`

## Hints

Options for running the program:

- t 0 (stride decomposition)
- f 3 (use `pnetcdf`)

```
/work/hpclab/train001/par_mandel[_fortran] /
```