

# **The NetCDF Fortran 77 Interface Guide**

NetCDF Version 4.1.1  
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# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Use of the NetCDF Library</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Creating a NetCDF Dataset	1
1.2	Reading a NetCDF Dataset with Known Names	2
1.3	Reading a netCDF Dataset with Unknown Names	3
1.4	Adding New Dimensions, Variables, Attributes	4
1.5	Error Handling	5
1.6	Compiling and Linking with the NetCDF Library	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Datasets</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1	Datasets Introduction	7
2.2	NetCDF Library Interface Descriptions	7
2.3	NF_STRERROR	8
2.4	Get netCDF library version: NF_INQ_LIBVERS	8
2.5	NF_CREATE	9
2.6	NF__CREATE	10
2.7	NF_CREATE_PAR	12
2.8	NF_OPEN	13
2.9	NF__OPEN	14
2.10	NF_OPEN_PAR	15
2.11	NF_REDEF	17
2.12	NF_ENDDEF	17
2.13	NF__ENDDEF	18
2.14	NF_CLOSE	20
2.15	NF_INQ Family	21
2.16	NF_SYNC	22
2.17	NF_ABORT	23
2.18	NF_SET_FILL	24
2.19	NF_SET_DEFAULT_FORMAT	26
2.20	Set HDF5 Chunk Cache for Future File Opens/Creates: NF_SET_CHUNK_CACHE	27
2.21	Get the HDF5 Chunk Cache Settings for Future File Opens/Creates: NF_GET_CHUNK_CACHE	28
<b>3</b>	<b>Groups</b>	<b>29</b>
3.1	Find a Group ID: NF_INQ_NCID	29
3.2	Get a List of Groups in a Group: NF_INQ_GRPS	30
3.3	Find all the Variables in a Group: NF_INQ_VARIDS	30
3.4	Find all Dimensions Visible in a Group: NF_INQ_DIMIDS	31
3.5	Find the Length of a Group's Name: NF_INQ_GRPNAME_LEN	32
3.6	Find a Group's Name: NF_INQ_GRPNAME	33
3.7	Find a Group's Full Name: NF_INQ_GRPNAME_FULL	34

3.8	Find a Group's Parent: NF_INQ_GRP_PARENT .....	35
3.9	Find a Group by Name: NF_INQ_GRP_NCID .....	35
3.10	Find a Group by its Fully-qualified Name: NF_INQ_GRP_FULL_NCID .....	36
3.11	Create a New Group: NF_DEF_GRP .....	37
<b>4</b>	<b>Dimensions .....</b>	<b>39</b>
4.1	Dimensions Introduction .....	39
4.2	NF_DEF_DIM .....	39
4.3	NF_INQ_DIMID .....	40
4.4	NF_INQ_DIM Family .....	41
4.5	NF_RENAME_DIM .....	42
<b>5</b>	<b>User Defined Data Types .....</b>	<b>45</b>
5.1	User Defined Types Introduction .....	45
5.2	Learn the IDs of All Types in Group: NF_INQ_TYPEIDS .....	45
5.3	Find a Typeid from Group and Name: NF_INQ_TYPEID .....	46
5.4	Learn About a User Defined Type: NF_INQ_TYPE .....	46
5.5	Learn About a User Defined Type: NF_INQ_USER_TYPE .....	48
5.6	Compound Types Introduction .....	49
5.6.1	Creating a Compound Type: NF_DEF_COMPOUND .....	49
5.6.2	Inserting a Field into a Compound Type: NF_INSERT_COMPOUND .....	50
5.6.3	Inserting an Array Field into a Compound Type: NF_INSERT_ARRAY_COMPOUND .....	51
5.6.4	Learn About a Compound Type: NF_INQ_COMPOUND .....	53
5.6.5	Learn About a Field of a Compound Type: NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELD .....	54
5.7	Variable Length Array Introduction .....	56
5.7.1	Define a Variable Length Array (VLEN): NF_DEF_VLEN .....	57
5.7.2	Learning about a Variable Length Array (VLEN) Type: NF_INQ_VLEN .....	58
5.7.3	Releasing Memory for a Variable Length Array (VLEN) Type: NF_FREE_VLEN .....	58
5.7.4	Set a Variable Length Array with NF_PUT_VLEN_ELEMENT .....	59
5.7.5	Set a Variable Length Array with NF_GET_VLEN_ELEMENT .....	60
5.8	Opaque Type Introduction .....	61
5.8.1	Creating Opaque Types: NF_DEF_OPAQUE .....	61
5.8.2	Learn About an Opaque Type: NF_INQ_OPAQUE .....	62
5.9	Enum Type Introduction .....	62
5.9.1	Creating a Enum Type: NF_DEF_ENUM .....	62
5.9.2	Inserting a Field into a Enum Type: NF_INSERT_ENUM .....	63
5.9.3	Learn About a Enum Type: NF_INQ_ENUM .....	65

5.9.4	Learn the Name of a Enum Type: <code>nf_inq_enum_member</code> ..	65
5.9.5	Learn the Name of a Enum Type: <code>NF_INQ_ENUM_IDENT</code> .....	66
<b>6</b>	<b>Variables</b> .....	<b>69</b>
6.1	Variables Introduction .....	69
6.2	Language Types Corresponding to netCDF external data types .....	69
6.3	Create a Variable: <code>NF_DEF_VAR</code> .....	70
6.4	Define Chunking Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING</code> .....	72
6.5	Learn About Chunking Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_INQ_VAR_CHUNKING</code> .....	74
6.6	Set HDF5 Chunk Cache for a Variable: <code>NF_SET_VAR_CHUNK_CACHE</code> .....	75
6.7	Get the HDF5 Chunk Cache Settings for a variable: <code>NF_GET_VAR_CHUNK_CACHE</code> .....	76
6.8	Define Fill Parameters for a Variable: <code>nf_def_var_fill</code> .....	77
6.9	Learn About Fill Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_INQ_VAR_FILL</code> .....	78
6.10	Define Compression Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_DEF_VAR_DEFLATE</code> .....	78
6.11	Learn About Deflate Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE</code> .....	80
6.12	Learn About Szip Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_INQ_VAR_SZIP</code> .....	81
6.13	Define Checksum Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_DEF_VAR_FLETCHER32</code> .....	82
6.14	Learn About Checksum Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_INQ_VAR_FLETCHER32</code> .....	84
6.15	Define Endianness of a Variable: <code>NF_DEF_VAR_ENDIAN</code> .....	85
6.16	Learn About Endian Parameters for a Variable: <code>NF_INQ_VAR_ENDIAN</code> .....	86
6.17	Get a Variable ID from Its Name: <code>NF_INQ_VARID</code> .....	87
6.18	Get Information about a Variable from Its ID: <code>NF_INQ_VAR</code> family .....	88
6.19	Write a Single Data Value: <code>NF_PUT_VAR1_type</code> .....	89
6.20	Write an Entire Variable: <code>NF_PUT_VAR_type</code> .....	91
6.21	Write an Array of Values: <code>NF_PUT_VARA_type</code> .....	93
6.22	<code>NF_PUT_VARS_type</code> .....	95
6.23	<code>NF_PUT_VARM_type</code> .....	98
6.24	<code>NF_GET_VAR1_type</code> .....	101
6.25	<code>NF_GET_VAR_type</code> .....	103
6.26	<code>NF_GET_VARA_type</code> .....	104
6.27	<code>NF_GET_VARS_type</code> .....	107
6.28	<code>NF_GET_VARM_type</code> .....	109
6.29	Reading and Writing Character String Values .....	112
6.30	Fill Values .....	114

6.31	NF_RENAME_VAR .....	115
6.32	Change between Collective and Independent Parallel Access: NF_VAR_PAR_ACCESS .....	116
<b>7</b>	<b>Attributes .....</b>	<b>119</b>
7.1	Attributes Introduction .....	119
7.2	NF_PUT_ATT_type .....	119
7.3	NF_INQ_ATT Family .....	122
7.4	NF_GET_ATT_type .....	123
7.5	NF_COPY_ATT .....	125
7.6	NF_RENAME_ATT .....	127
7.7	NF_DEL_ATT .....	128
<b>Appendix A NetCDF 2 to NetCDF 3 Fortran 77 Transition Guide .....</b>		<b>131</b>
A.1	Overview of FORTRAN interface changes .....	131
A.2	The New FORTRAN Interface .....	131
A.3	Function Naming Conventions .....	132
A.4	Type Conversion .....	133
<b>Appendix B Summary of FORTRAN 77 Interface .....</b>		<b>135</b>
<b>Index .....</b>		<b>141</b>

# 1 Use of the NetCDF Library

You can use the netCDF library without knowing about all of the netCDF interface. If you are creating a netCDF dataset, only a handful of routines are required to define the necessary dimensions, variables, and attributes, and to write the data to the netCDF dataset. (Even less are needed if you use the `ncgen` utility to create the dataset before running a program using netCDF library calls to write data. See [Section “ncgen” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).) Similarly, if you are writing software to access data stored in a particular netCDF object, only a small subset of the netCDF library is required to open the netCDF dataset and access the data. Authors of generic applications that access arbitrary netCDF datasets need to be familiar with more of the netCDF library.

In this chapter we provide templates of common sequences of netCDF calls needed for common uses. For clarity we present only the names of routines; omit declarations and error checking; omit the type-specific suffixes of routine names for variables and attributes; indent statements that are typically invoked multiple times; and use `...` to represent arbitrary sequences of other statements. Full parameter lists are described in later chapters.

## 1.1 Creating a NetCDF Dataset

Here is a typical sequence of netCDF calls used to create a new netCDF dataset:

```

NF_CREATE          ! create netCDF dataset: enter define mode
...
NF_DEF_DIM         ! define dimensions: from name and length
...
NF_DEF_VAR        ! define variables: from name, type, dims
...
NF_PUT_ATT        ! assign attribute values
...
NF_ENDDEF         ! end definitions: leave define mode
...
NF_PUT_VAR        ! provide values for variable
...
NF_CLOSE          ! close: save new netCDF dataset

```

Only one call is needed to create a netCDF dataset, at which point you will be in the first of two netCDF modes. When accessing an open netCDF dataset, it is either in define mode or data mode. In define mode, you can create dimensions, variables, and new attributes, but you cannot read or write variable data. In data mode, you can access data and change existing attributes, but you are not permitted to create new dimensions, variables, or attributes.

One call to `NF_DEF_DIM` is needed for each dimension created. Similarly, one call to `NF_DEF_VAR` is needed for each variable creation, and one call to a member of the `NF_PUT_ATT` family is needed for each attribute defined and assigned a value. To leave define mode and enter data mode, call `NF_ENDDEF`.

Once in data mode, you can add new data to variables, change old values, and change values of existing attributes (so long as the attribute changes do not require more storage space). Single values may be written to a netCDF variable with one of the members of

the `NF_PUT_VAR1` family, depending on what type of data you have to write. All the values of a variable may be written at once with one of the members of the `NF_PUT_VAR` family. Arrays or array cross-sections of a variable may be written using members of the `NF_PUT_VARA` family. Subsampled array sections may be written using members of the `NF_PUT_VARS` family. Mapped array sections may be written using members of the `NF_PUT_VARM` family. (Subsampled and mapped access are general forms of data access that are explained later.)

Finally, you should explicitly close all netCDF datasets that have been opened for writing by calling `NF_CLOSE`. By default, access to the file system is buffered by the netCDF library. If a program terminates abnormally with netCDF datasets open for writing, your most recent modifications may be lost. This default buffering of data is disabled by setting the `NF_SHARE` flag when opening the dataset. But even if this flag is set, changes to attribute values or changes made in define mode are not written out until `NF_SYNC` or `NF_CLOSE` is called.

## 1.2 Reading a NetCDF Dataset with Known Names

Here we consider the case where you know the names of not only the netCDF datasets, but also the names of their dimensions, variables, and attributes. (Otherwise you would have to do "inquire" calls.) The order of typical C calls to read data from those variables in a netCDF dataset is:

```

NF_OPEN           ! open existing netCDF dataset
...
NF_INQ_DIMID     ! get dimension IDs
...
NF_INQ_VARID     ! get variable IDs
...
NF_GET_ATT       ! get attribute values
...
NF_GET_VAR       ! get values of variables
...
NF_CLOSE         ! close netCDF dataset

```

First, a single call opens the netCDF dataset, given the dataset name, and returns a netCDF ID that is used to refer to the open netCDF dataset in all subsequent calls.

Next, a call to `NF_INQ_DIMID` for each dimension of interest gets the dimension ID from the dimension name. Similarly, each required variable ID is determined from its name by a call to `NF_INQ_VARID`. Once variable IDs are known, variable attribute values can be retrieved using the netCDF ID, the variable ID, and the desired attribute name as input to a member of the `NF_GET_ATT` family (typically `NF_GET_ATT_TEXT` or `NF_GET_ATT_DOUBLE`) for each desired attribute. Variable data values can be directly accessed from the netCDF dataset with calls to members of the `NF_GET_VAR1` family for single values, the `NF_GET_VAR` family for entire variables, or various other members of the `NF_GET_VARA`, `NF_GET_VARS`, or `NF_GET_VARM` families for array, subsampled or mapped access.

Finally, the netCDF dataset is closed with `NF_CLOSE`. There is no need to close a dataset open only for reading.

### 1.3 Reading a netCDF Dataset with Unknown Names

It is possible to write programs (e.g., generic software) which do such things as processing every variable, without needing to know in advance the names of these variables. Similarly, the names of dimensions and attributes may be unknown.

Names and other information about netCDF objects may be obtained from netCDF datasets by calling inquire functions. These return information about a whole netCDF dataset, a dimension, a variable, or an attribute. The following template illustrates how they are used:

```

NF_OPEN           ! open existing netCDF dataset
...
NF_INQ           ! find out what is in it
...
NF_INQ_DIM       ! get dimension names, lengths
...
NF_INQ_VAR       ! get variable names, types, shapes
...
NF_INQ_ATTNAME   ! get attribute names
...
NF_INQ_ATT       ! get attribute values
...
NF_GET_ATT       ! get attribute values
...
NF_GET_VAR       ! get values of variables
...
NF_CLOSE         ! close netCDF dataset

```

As in the previous example, a single call opens the existing netCDF dataset, returning a netCDF ID. This netCDF ID is given to the `NF_INQ` routine, which returns the number of dimensions, the number of variables, the number of global attributes, and the ID of the unlimited dimension, if there is one.

All the inquire functions are inexpensive to use and require no I/O, since the information they provide is stored in memory when a netCDF dataset is first opened.

Dimension IDs use consecutive integers, beginning at 1. Also dimensions, once created, cannot be deleted. Therefore, knowing the number of dimension IDs in a netCDF dataset means knowing all the dimension IDs: they are the integers 1, 2, 3, ... up to the number of dimensions. For each dimension ID, a call to the inquire function `NF_INQ_DIM` returns the dimension name and length.

Variable IDs are also assigned from consecutive integers 1, 2, 3, ... up to the number of variables. These can be used in `NF_INQ_VAR` calls to find out the names, types, shapes, and the number of attributes assigned to each variable.

Once the number of attributes for a variable is known, successive calls to `NF_INQ_ATTNAME` return the name for each attribute given the netCDF ID, variable ID, and attribute number. Armed with the attribute name, a call to `NF_INQ_ATT` returns its type and length. Given the type and length, you can allocate enough space to hold the attribute values. Then a call to a member of the `NF_GET_ATT` family returns the attribute values.

Once the IDs and shapes of netCDF variables are known, data values can be accessed by calling a member of the `NF_GET_VAR1` family for single values, or members of the `NF_GET_VAR`, `NF_GET_VARA`, `NF_GET_VARS`, or `NF_GET_VARM` for various kinds of array access.

## 1.4 Adding New Dimensions, Variables, Attributes

An existing netCDF dataset can be extensively altered. New dimensions, variables, and attributes can be added or existing ones renamed, and existing attributes can be deleted. Existing dimensions, variables, and attributes can be renamed. The following code template lists a typical sequence of calls to add new netCDF components to an existing dataset:

```

NF_OPEN           ! open existing netCDF dataset
...
NF_REDEF          ! put it into define mode
...
NF_DEF_DIM        ! define additional dimensions (if any)
...
NF_DEF_VAR        ! define additional variables (if any)
...
NF_PUT_ATT        ! define other attributes (if any)
...
NF_ENDDEF         ! check definitions, leave define mode
...
NF_PUT_VAR        ! provide new variable values
...
NF_CLOSE          ! close netCDF dataset

```

A netCDF dataset is first opened by the `NF_OPEN` call. This call puts the open dataset in data mode, which means existing data values can be accessed and changed, existing attributes can be changed (so long as they do not grow), but nothing can be added. To add new netCDF dimensions, variables, or attributes you must enter define mode, by calling `NF_REDEF`. In define mode, call `NF_DEF_DIM` to define new dimensions, `NF_DEF_VAR` to define new variables, and a member of the `NF_PUT_ATT` family to assign new attributes to variables or enlarge old attributes.

You can leave define mode and reenter data mode, checking all the new definitions for consistency and committing the changes to disk, by calling `NF_ENDDEF`. If you do not wish to reenter data mode, just call `NF_CLOSE`, which will have the effect of first calling `NF_ENDDEF`.

Until the `NF_ENDDEF` call, you may back out of all the redefinitions made in define mode and restore the previous state of the netCDF dataset by calling `NF_ABORT`. You may also use the `NF_ABORT` call to restore the netCDF dataset to a consistent state if the call to `NF_ENDDEF` fails. If you have called `NF_CLOSE` from definition mode and the implied call to `NF_ENDDEF` fails, `NF_ABORT` will automatically be called to close the netCDF dataset and leave it in its previous consistent state (before you entered define mode).

At most one process should have a netCDF dataset open for writing at one time. The library is designed to provide limited support for multiple concurrent readers with one writer,

via disciplined use of the `NF_SYNC` function and the `NF_SHARE` flag. If a writer makes changes in define mode, such as the addition of new variables, dimensions, or attributes, some means external to the library is necessary to prevent readers from making concurrent accesses and to inform readers to call `NF_SYNC` before the next access.

## 1.5 Error Handling

The netCDF library provides the facilities needed to handle errors in a flexible way. Each netCDF function returns an integer status value. If the returned status value indicates an error, you may handle it in any way desired, from printing an associated error message and exiting to ignoring the error indication and proceeding (not recommended!). For simplicity, the examples in this guide check the error status and call a separate function to handle any errors.

The `NF_STRERROR` function is available to convert a returned integer error status into an error message string.

Occasionally, low-level I/O errors may occur in a layer below the netCDF library. For example, if a write operation causes you to exceed disk quotas or to attempt to write to a device that is no longer available, you may get an error from a layer below the netCDF library, but the resulting write error will still be reflected in the returned status value.

## 1.6 Compiling and Linking with the NetCDF Library

Details of how to compile and link a program that uses the netCDF C or FORTRAN interfaces differ, depending on the operating system, the available compilers, and where the netCDF library and include files are installed. Nevertheless, we provide here examples of how to compile and link a program that uses the netCDF library on a Unix platform, so that you can adjust these examples to fit your installation.

Every FORTRAN file that references netCDF functions or constants must contain an appropriate `INCLUDE` statement before the first such reference:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
```

Unless the `netcdf.inc` file is installed in a standard directory where the FORTRAN compiler always looks, you must use the `-I` option when invoking the compiler, to specify a directory where `netcdf.inc` is installed, for example:

```
f77 -c -I/usr/local/netcdf/include myprogram.f
```

Alternatively, you could specify an absolute path name in the `INCLUDE` statement, but then your program would not compile on another platform where netCDF is installed in a different location.

Unless the netCDF library is installed in a standard directory where the linker always looks, you must use the `-L` and `-l` options to link an object file that uses the netCDF library. For example:

```
f77 -o myprogram myprogram.o -L/usr/local/netcdf/lib -lnetcdf
```

Alternatively, you could specify an absolute path name for the library:

```
f77 -o myprogram myprogram.o -l/usr/local/netcdf/lib/libnetcdf.
```



## 2 Datasets

### 2.1 Datasets Introduction

This chapter presents the interfaces of the netCDF functions that deal with a netCDF dataset or the whole netCDF library.

A netCDF dataset that has not yet been opened can only be referred to by its dataset name. Once a netCDF dataset is opened, it is referred to by a netCDF ID, which is a small nonnegative integer returned when you create or open the dataset. A netCDF ID is much like a file descriptor in C or a logical unit number in FORTRAN. In any single program, the netCDF IDs of distinct open netCDF datasets are distinct. A single netCDF dataset may be opened multiple times and will then have multiple distinct netCDF IDs; however at most one of the open instances of a single netCDF dataset should permit writing. When an open netCDF dataset is closed, the ID is no longer associated with a netCDF dataset.

Functions that deal with the netCDF library include:

- Get version of library.
- Get error message corresponding to a returned error code.

The operations supported on a netCDF dataset as a single object are:

- Create, given dataset name and whether to overwrite or not.
  - Open for access, given dataset name and read or write intent.
  - Put into define mode, to add dimensions, variables, or attributes.
  - Take out of define mode, checking consistency of additions.
  - Close, writing to disk if required.
  - Inquire about the number of dimensions, number of variables, number of global attributes, and ID of the unlimited dimension, if any.
  - Synchronize to disk to make sure it is current.
  - Set and unset nofill mode for optimized sequential writes.
- After a summary of conventions used in describing the netCDF interfaces, the rest of this chapter presents a detailed description of the interfaces for these operations.

### 2.2 NetCDF Library Interface Descriptions

Each interface description for a particular netCDF function in this and later chapters contains:

- a description of the purpose of the function;
- a FORTRAN function prototype that presents the type and order of the formal parameters to the function;
- a description of each formal parameter in the C interface;
- a list of possible error conditions; and
- an example of a FORTRAN program fragment calling the netCDF function (and perhaps other netCDF functions).

The examples follow a simple convention for error handling, always checking the error status returned from each netCDF function call and calling a `handle_error` function in case an error was detected. For an example of such a function, see Section 5.2 "Get error message corresponding to error status: `nf_strerror`".

## 2.3 NF\_STRERROR

The function `NF_STRERROR` returns a static reference to an error message string corresponding to an integer netCDF error status or to a system error number, presumably returned by a previous call to some other netCDF function. The list of netCDF error status codes is available in the appropriate include file for each language binding.

### Usage

```
CHARACTER*80 FUNCTION NF_STRERROR(INTEGER NCERR)
```

`NCERR`      An error status that might have been returned from a previous call to some netCDF function.

### Errors

If you provide an invalid integer error status that does not correspond to any netCDF error message or to any system error message (as understood by the system `strerror` function), `NF_STRERROR` returns a string indicating that there is no such error status.

### Example

Here is an example of a simple error handling function that uses `NF_STRERROR` to print the error message corresponding to the netCDF error status returned from any netCDF function call and then exit:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
SUBROUTINE HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
INTEGER STATUS
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) THEN
  PRINT *, NF_STRERROR(STATUS)
  STOP 'Stopped'
ENDIF
END
```

## 2.4 Get netCDF library version: NF\_INQ\_LIBVERS

The function `NF_INQ_LIBVERS` returns a string identifying the version of the netCDF library, and when it was built.

### Usage

```
CHARACTER*80 FUNCTION NF_INQ_LIBVERS()
```

## Errors

This function takes no arguments, and thus no errors are possible in its invocation.

## Example

Here is an example using `nf_inq_libvers` to print the version of the netCDF library with which the program is linked:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PRINT *, NF_INQ_LIBVERS()
```

## 2.5 NF\_CREATE

This function creates a new netCDF dataset, returning a netCDF ID that can subsequently be used to refer to the netCDF dataset in other netCDF function calls. The new netCDF dataset opened for write access and placed in define mode, ready for you to add dimensions, variables, and attributes.

A creation mode flag specifies whether to overwrite any existing dataset with the same name and whether access to the dataset is shared.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_CREATE (CHARACTER*(*) PATH, INTEGER CMODE,
                           INTEGER ncid)
```

**PATH**        The file name of the new netCDF dataset.

**CMODE**        The creation mode flag. The following flags are available: `NF_NOCLOBBER`, `NF_SHARE`, `NF_64BIT-OFFSET`, `NF_NETCDF4` and `NF_CLASSIC_MODEL`. You can combine the affect of multiple flags in a single argument by using the bitwise OR operator. For example, to specify both `NF_NOCLOBBER` and `NF_SHARE`, you could provide the argument `OR(NF_NOCLOBBER, NF_SHARE)`.

A zero value (defined for convenience as `NF_CLOBBER`) specifies the default behavior: overwrite any existing dataset with the same file name and buffer and cache accesses for efficiency. The dataset will be in netCDF classic format. See [Section “NetCDF Classic Format Limitations”](#) in *The NetCDF Users Guide*.

Setting `NF_NOCLOBBER` means you do not want to clobber (overwrite) an existing dataset; an error (`NF_EEXIST`) is returned if the specified dataset already exists.

The `NF_SHARE` flag is appropriate when one process may be writing the dataset and one or more other processes reading the dataset concurrently; it means that dataset accesses are not buffered and caching is limited. Since the buffering scheme is optimized for sequential access, programs that do not access data sequentially may see some performance improvement by setting the `NF_SHARE` flag. This only applied to classic and 64-bit offset format files.

Setting `NF_64BIT-OFFSET` causes netCDF to create a 64-bit offset format file, instead of a netCDF classic format file. The 64-bit offset format imposes far



**PATH** The file name of the new netCDF dataset.

**CMODE** The creation mode flag. The following flags are available: `NF_NOCLOBBER`, `NF_SHARE`, `NF_64BIT_OFFSET`, `NF_NETCDF4`, and `NF_CLASSIC_MODEL`.

Setting `NF_NOCLOBBER` means you do not want to clobber (overwrite) an existing dataset; an error (`NF_EEXIST`) is returned if the specified dataset already exists.

The `NF_SHARE` flag is appropriate when one process may be writing the dataset and one or more other processes reading the dataset concurrently; it means that dataset accesses are not buffered and caching is limited. Since the buffering scheme is optimized for sequential access, programs that do not access data sequentially may see some performance improvement by setting the `NF_SHARE` flag. This flag has no effect with netCDF-4/HDF5 files.

Setting `NF_64BIT_OFFSET` causes netCDF to create a 64-bit offset format file, instead of a netCDF classic format file. The 64-bit offset format imposes far fewer restrictions on very large (i.e. over 2 GB) data files. See [Section “Large File Support” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

Setting `NF_CLASSIC_MODEL` causes netCDF to enforce the classic data model in this file. (This only has effect for netCDF-4/HDF5 files, as classic and 64-bit offset files always use the classic model.) When used with `NF_NETCDF4`, this flag ensures that the resulting netCDF-4/HDF5 file may never contain any new constructs from the enhanced data model. That is, it cannot contain groups, user defined types, multiple unlimited dimensions, or new atomic types. The advantage of this restriction is that such files are guaranteed to work with existing netCDF software.

A zero value (defined for convenience as `NF_CLOBBER`) specifies the default behavior: overwrite any existing dataset with the same file name and buffer and cache accesses for efficiency. The dataset will be in netCDF classic format. See [Section “NetCDF Classic Format Limitations” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

**INITIALSZ**

This parameter sets the initial size of the file at creation time.

**BUFRSIZEHINT**

The argument referenced by `BUFRSIZEHINT` controls a space versus time tradeoff, memory allocated in the netcdf library versus number of system calls. Because of internal requirements, the value may not be set to exactly the value requested. The actual value chosen is returned by reference.

Using the value `NF_SIZEHINT_DEFAULT` causes the library to choose a default. How the system chooses the default depends on the system. On many systems, the "preferred I/O block size" is available from the `stat()` system call, struct stat member `st_blksize`. If this is available it is used. Lacking that, twice the system pagesize is used.

Lacking a call to discover the system pagesize, we just set default bufrsize to 8192.

The `BUFSIZE` is a property of a given open netcdf descriptor `ncid`, it is not a persistent property of the netcdf dataset.

`ncid`      Returned netCDF ID.

## Errors

`NF__CREATE` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Possible causes of errors include:

- Passing a dataset name that includes a directory that does not exist.
- Specifying a dataset name of a file that exists and also specifying `NF_NOCLOBBER`.
- Specifying a meaningless value for the creation mode.
- Attempting to create a netCDF dataset in a directory where you don't have permission to create files.

## Example

In this example we create a netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`; we want the dataset to be created in the current directory only if a dataset with that name does not already exist:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS, INITIALSZ, BUFSIZEHINT
...
INITIALSZ = 2048
BUFSIZEHINT = 1024
STATUS = NF__CREATE('foo.nc', NF_NOCLOBBER, INITIALSZ, BUFSIZEHINT, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 2.7 NF\_CREATE\_PAR

This function is a variant of `nf_create`, `nf_create_par` allows users to open a file on a MPI/IO or MPI/Posix parallel file system.

The parallel parameters are not written to the data file, they are only used for so long as the file remains open after an `nf_create_par`.

This function is only available if the netCDF library was built with parallel I/O.

This function creates a new netCDF dataset, returning a netCDF ID that can subsequently be used to refer to the netCDF dataset in other netCDF function calls. The new netCDF dataset opened for write access and placed in define mode, ready for you to add dimensions, variables, and attributes.

When a netCDF-4 file is created for parallel access, independent operations are the default. To use collective access on a variable, See [Section 6.32 \[NF\\_VAR\\_PAR\\_ACCESS\]](#), page 116.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_CREATE_PAR(CHARACTER*(*) PATH, INTEGER CMODE,
                              INTEGER MPI_COMM, INTEGER MPI_INFO,
                              INTEGER ncid)
```

<b>PATH</b>	The file name of the new netCDF dataset.
<b>CMODE</b>	The creation mode flag. The following flags are available: <code>NF_NOCLOBBER</code> , <code>NF_NETCDF4</code> and <code>NF_CLASSIC_MODEL</code> . You can combine the affect of multiple flags in a single argument by using the bitwise OR operator. For example, to specify both <code>NF_NOCLOBBER</code> and <code>NF_NETCDF4</code> , you could provide the argument <code>OR(NF_NOCLOBBER, NF_NETCDF4)</code> .  Setting <code>NF_NETCDF4</code> causes netCDF to create a netCDF-4/HDF5 format file. Oring <code>NF_CLASSIC_MODEL</code> with <code>NF_NETCDF4</code> causes the netCDF library to create a netCDF-4/HDF5 data file, with the netCDF classic model enforced - none of the new features of the netCDF-4 data model may be used in such a file, for example groups and user-defined types.  Only netCDF-4/HDF5 files may be used with parallel I/O.
<b>MPI_COMM</b>	The MPI communicator.
<b>MPI_INFO</b>	The MPI info.
<b>ncid</b>	Returned netCDF ID.

## Errors

`NF_CREATE` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Possible causes of errors include:

- Passing a dataset name that includes a directory that does not exist.
- Specifying a dataset name of a file that exists and also specifying `NF_NOCLOBBER`.
- Specifying a meaningless value for the creation mode.
- Attempting to create a netCDF dataset in a directory where you don't have permission to create files.

## Example

This example is from test program `nf_test/ftst_parallel.F`.

```
! Create the netCDF file.
mode_flag = IOR(nf_netcdf4, nf_classic_model)
retval = nf_create_par(FILE_NAME, mode_flag, MPI_COMM_WORLD,
$ MPI_INFO_NULL, ncid)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) stop 2
```

## 2.8 NF\_OPEN

The function `NF_OPEN` opens an existing netCDF dataset for access.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_OPEN(CHARACTER*(*) PATH, INTEGER OMODE, INTEGER ncid)
```

**PATH** File name for netCDF dataset to be opened. This may be an OPeNDAP URL if DAP support is enabled.

**OMODE** A zero value (or `NF_NOWRITE`) specifies the default behavior: open the dataset with read-only access, buffering and caching accesses for efficiency. Otherwise, the creation mode is `NF_WRITE`, `NF_SHARE`, or `OR(NF_WRITE, NF_SHARE)`. Setting the `NF_WRITE` flag opens the dataset with read-write access. ("Writing" means any kind of change to the dataset, including appending or changing data, adding or renaming dimensions, variables, and attributes, or deleting attributes.) The `NF_SHARE` flag is appropriate when one process may be writing the dataset and one or more other processes reading the dataset concurrently; it means that dataset accesses are not buffered and caching is limited. Since the buffering scheme is optimized for sequential access, programs that do not access data sequentially may see some performance improvement by setting the `NF_SHARE` flag.

**ncid** Returned netCDF ID.

## Errors

`NF_OPEN` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF dataset does not exist.
- A meaningless mode was specified.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_OPEN` to open an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` for read-only, non-shared access:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', 0, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 2.9 NF\_\_OPEN

The function `NF__OPEN` opens an existing netCDF dataset for access, with a performance tuning parameter.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF__OPEN(CHARACTER*(*) PATH, INTEGER OMODE, INTEGER
  BUFRSIZEHINT, INTEGER ncid)
```

**PATH** File name for netCDF dataset to be opened.

**OMODE** A zero value (or `NF_NOWRITE`) specifies the default behavior: open the dataset with read-only access, buffering and caching accesses for efficiency. Otherwise, the creation mode is `NF_WRITE`, `NF_SHARE`, or `OR(NF_WRITE, NF_SHARE)`. Setting the `NF_WRITE` flag opens the

dataset with read-write access. ("Writing" means any kind of change to the dataset, including appending or changing data, adding or renaming dimensions, variables, and attributes, or deleting attributes.) The `NF_SHARE` flag is appropriate when one process may be writing the dataset and one or more other processes reading the dataset concurrently; it means that dataset accesses are not buffered and caching is limited. Since the buffering scheme is optimized for sequential access, programs that do not access data sequentially may see some performance improvement by setting the `NF_SHARE` flag.

#### BUFRSIZEHINT

This argument controls a space versus time tradeoff, memory allocated in the netcdf library versus number of system calls.

Because of internal requirements, the value may not be set to exactly the value requested. The actual value chosen is returned by reference.

Using the value `NF_SIZEHINT_DEFAULT` causes the library to choose a default. How the system chooses the default depends on the system. On many systems, the "preferred I/O block size" is available from the `stat()` system call, struct `stat` member `st_blksize`. If this is available it is used. Lacking that, twice the system `pagesize` is used.

Lacking a call to discover the system `pagesize`, we just set default `bufsize` to 8192.

The `bufsize` is a property of a given open netcdf descriptor `ncid`, it is not a persistent property of the netcdf dataset.

`ncid`      Returned netCDF ID.

## Errors

`NF_OPEN` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF dataset does not exist.
- A meaningless mode was specified.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_OPEN` to open an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` for read-only, non-shared access:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS, BUFRSIZEHINT
...
BUFRSIZEHINT = 1024
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', 0, BUFRSIZEHINT, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 2.10 NF\_OPEN\_PAR

This function opens a netCDF-4 dataset for parallel access.

This function is only available if the netCDF library was built with a HDF5 library for which `-enable-parallel` was used, and which was linked (like HDF5) to MPI libraries.

This opens the file using either MPI-IO or MPI-POSIX. The file must be a netCDF-4 file. (That is, it must have been created using `NF_NETCDF4` in the creation mode).

This function is only available if netCDF-4 was build with a version of the HDF5 library which was built with `-enable-parallel`.

Before either HDF5 or netCDF-4 can be installed with support for parallel programming, and MPI layer must also be installed on the machine, and usually a parallel file system.

NetCDF-4 exposes the parallel access functionality of HDF5. For more information about what is required to install and use the parallel access functions, see the HDF5 web site.

When a netCDF-4 file is opened for parallel access, collective operations are the default. To use independent access on a variable, See [Section 6.32 \[NF\\_VAR\\_PAR\\_ACCESS\]](#), page 116.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_OPEN_PAR(CHARACTER*(*) PATH, INTEGER OMODE,
                             INTEGER MPI_COMM, INTEGER MPI_INFO,
                             INTEGER ncid)
```

**PATH** File name for netCDF dataset to be opened.

**OMODE** A zero value (or `NF_NOWRITE`) specifies the default behavior: open the dataset with read-only access.

Otherwise, the mode may be `NF_WRITE`. Setting the `NF_WRITE` flag opens the dataset with read-write access. ("Writing" means any kind of change to the dataset, including appending or changing data, adding or renaming dimensions, variables, and attributes, or deleting attributes.)

Setting `NF_NETCDF4` is not necessary (or allowed). The file type is detected automatically.

**MPI\_COMM** The MPI communicator.

**MPI\_INFO** The MPI info.

**ncid** Returned netCDF ID.

## Errors

`NF_OPEN` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF dataset does not exist.
- A meaningless mode was specified.
- Not a netCDF-4 file.

## Example

This example is from the test program `nf_test/ftst_parallel.F`.

```
!      Reopen the file.
      retval = nf_open_par(FILE_NAME, nf_nowrite, MPI_COMM_WORLD,
$      MPI_INFO_NULL, ncid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) stop 2
```

## 2.11 NF\_REDEF

The function `NF_REDEF` puts an open netCDF dataset into define mode, so dimensions, variables, and attributes can be added or renamed and attributes can be deleted.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_REDEF(INTEGER NCID)
NCID      netCDF ID, from a previous call to NF_OPEN or NF_CREATE.
```

### Errors

`NF_REDEF` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF dataset is already in define mode.
- The specified netCDF dataset was opened for read-only.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_REDEF` to open an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` and put it into define mode:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID) ! open dataset
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_REDEF(NCID) ! put in define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 2.12 NF\_ENDDEF

The function `NF_ENDDEF` takes an open netCDF dataset out of define mode. The changes made to the netCDF dataset while it was in define mode are checked and committed to disk if no problems occurred. Non-record variables may be initialized to a "fill value" as well (see [Section 2.18 \[NF\\_SET\\_FILL\]](#), page 24). The netCDF dataset is then placed in data mode, so variable data can be read or written.

This call may involve copying data under some circumstances. See [Section "File Structure and Performance"](#) in *NetCDF Users' Guide*.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_ENDDEF(INTEGER NCID)
```

NCID        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF\_OPEN or NF\_CREATE.

## Errors

NF\_ENDDEF returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF dataset is not in define mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset. The size of one or more variables exceed the size constraints for whichever variant of the file format is in use). See [Section “Large File Support”](#) in *The NetCDF Users Guide*.
- 

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_ENDDEF to finish the definitions of a new netCDF dataset named foo.nc and put it into data mode:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS
...
STATUS = NF_CREATE('foo.nc', NF_NOCLOBBER, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

... ! create dimensions, variables, attributes

STATUS = NF_ENDDEF(NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 2.13 NF\_\_ENDDEF

The function NF\_\_ENDDEF takes an open netCDF dataset out of define mode. The changes made to the netCDF dataset while it was in define mode are checked and committed to disk if no problems occurred. Non-record variables may be initialized to a "fill value" as well (see [Section 2.18 \[NF\\_SET\\_FILL\]](#), page 24). The netCDF dataset is then placed in data mode, so variable data can be read or written.

This call may involve copying data under some circumstances. See [Section “File Structure and Performance”](#) in *NetCDF Users’ Guide*.

This function assumes specific characteristics of the netcdf version 1 and version 2 file formats. Users should use nf\_enddef in most circumstances. Although this function will be available in future netCDF implementations, it may not continue to have any effect on performance.

The current netcdf file format has three sections, the "header" section, the data section for fixed size variables, and the data section for variables which have an unlimited dimension (record variables).

The header begins at the beginning of the file. The index (offset) of the beginning of the other two sections is contained in the header. Typically, there is no space between the sections. This causes copying overhead to accrue if one wishes to change the size of the sections, as may happen when changing names of things, text attribute values, adding attributes or adding variables. Also, for buffered i/o, there may be advantages to aligning sections in certain ways.

The `minfree` parameters allow one to control costs of future calls to `nf_redef`, `nf_enddef` by requesting that `minfree` bytes be available at the end of the section.

The `align` parameters allow one to set the alignment of the beginning of the corresponding sections. The beginning of the section is rounded up to an index which is a multiple of the `align` parameter. The flag value `ALIGN_CHUNK` tells the library to use the `bufsize` (see above) as the `align` parameter.

The file format requires mod 4 alignment, so the `align` parameters are silently rounded up to multiples of 4. The usual call,

```
nf_enddef(ncid);
```

is equivalent to

```
nf_enddef(ncid, 0, 4, 0, 4);
```

The file format does not contain a "record size" value, this is calculated from the sizes of the record variables. This unfortunate fact prevents us from providing `minfree` and alignment control of the "records" in a netcdf file. If you add a variable which has an unlimited dimension, the third section will always be copied with the new variable added.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_ENDDEF(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER H_MINFREE, INTEGER V_ALIGN,
                           INTEGER V_MINFREE, INTEGER R_ALIGN)
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**H\_MINFREE** Sets the pad at the end of the "header" section.

**V\_ALIGN** Controls the alignment of the beginning of the data section for fixed size variables.

**V\_MINFREE** Sets the pad at the end of the data section for fixed size variables.

**R\_ALIGN** Controls the alignment of the beginning of the data section for variables which have an unlimited dimension (record variables).

## Errors

`NF__ENDDEF` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF dataset is not in define mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.
- The size of one or more variables exceed the size constraints for whichever variant of the file format is in use). See [Section "Large File Support" in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_ENDDEF` to finish the definitions of a new netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` and put it into data mode:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS, H_MINFREE, V_ALIGN, V_MINFREE, R_ALIGN
...
STATUS = NF_CREATE('foo.nc', NF_NOCLOBBER, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

... ! create dimensions, variables, attributes

H_MINFREE = 512
V_ALIGN = 512
V_MINFREE = 512
R_ALIGN = 512
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF(NCID, H_MINFREE, V_ALIGN, V_MINFREE, R_ALIGN)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 2.14 NF\_CLOSE

The function `NF_CLOSE` closes an open netCDF dataset. If the dataset is in define mode, `NF_ENDDEF` will be called before closing. (In this case, if `NF_ENDDEF` returns an error, `NF_ABORT` will automatically be called to restore the dataset to the consistent state before define mode was last entered.) After an open netCDF dataset is closed, its netCDF ID may be reassigned to the next netCDF dataset that is opened or created.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_CLOSE(INTEGER NCID)
NCID      NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF_OPEN or NF_CREATE.

```

### Errors

`NF_CLOSE` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- Define mode was entered and the automatic call made to `NF_ENDDEF` failed.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_CLOSE` to finish the definitions of a new netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` and release its netCDF ID:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS
...

```

```

STATUS = NF_CREATE('foo.nc', NF_NOCLOBBER, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

...    ! create dimensions, variables, attributes

STATUS = NF_CLOSE(NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 2.15 NF\_INQ Family

Members of the NF\_INQ family of functions return information about an open netCDF dataset, given its netCDF ID. Dataset inquire functions may be called from either define mode or data mode. The first function, NF\_INQ, returns values for the number of dimensions, the number of variables, the number of global attributes, and the dimension ID of the dimension defined with unlimited length, if any. The other functions in the family each return just one of these items of information.

For FORTRAN, these functions include NF\_INQ, NF\_INQ\_NDIMS, NF\_INQ\_NVARS, NF\_INQ\_NATTS, and NF\_INQ\_UNLIMDIM. An additional function, NF\_INQ\_FORMAT, returns the (rarely needed) format version.

No I/O is performed when these functions are called, since the required information is available in memory for each open netCDF dataset.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ          (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER ndims,
                                INTEGER nvars, INTEGER ngatts,
                                INTEGER unlimdimid)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_NDIMS   (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER ndims)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_NVARS   (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER nvars)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_NATTS   (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER ngatts)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_UNLIMDIM (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER unlimdimid)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_FORMAT  (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER format)

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF\_OPEN or NF\_CREATE.

**ndims** Returned number of dimensions defined for this netCDF dataset.

**nvars** Returned number of variables defined for this netCDF dataset.

**ngatts** Returned number of global attributes defined for this netCDF dataset.

**unlimdimid** Returned ID of the unlimited dimension, if there is one for this netCDF dataset. If no unlimited length dimension has been defined, -1 is returned.

**format** Returned format version, one of NF\_FORMAT\_CLASSIC, NF\_FORMAT\_64BIT, NF\_FORMAT\_NETCDF4, NF\_FORMAT\_NETCDF4\_CLASSIC.

## Errors

All members of the `NF_INQ` family return the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_INQ` to find out about a netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, NDIMS, NVAR, NGATT, UNLIMDIMID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ(NCID, NDIMS, NVAR, NGATT, UNLIMDIMID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 2.16 NF\_SYNC

The function `NF_SYNC` offers a way to synchronize the disk copy of a netCDF dataset with in-memory buffers. There are two reasons you might want to synchronize after writes:

- To minimize data loss in case of abnormal termination, or
- To make data available to other processes for reading immediately after it is written. But note that a process that already had the dataset open for reading would not see the number of records increase when the writing process calls `NF_SYNC`; to accomplish this, the reading process must call `NF_SYNC`.

This function is backward-compatible with previous versions of the netCDF library. The intent was to allow sharing of a netCDF dataset among multiple readers and one writer, by having the writer call `NF_SYNC` after writing and the readers call `NF_SYNC` before each read. For a writer, this flushes buffers to disk. For a reader, it makes sure that the next read will be from disk rather than from previously cached buffers, so that the reader will see changes made by the writing process (e.g., the number of records written) without having to close and reopen the dataset. If you are only accessing a small amount of data, it can be expensive in computer resources to always synchronize to disk after every write, since you are giving up the benefits of buffering.

An easier way to accomplish sharing (and what is now recommended) is to have the writer and readers open the dataset with the `NF_SHARE` flag, and then it will not be necessary to call `NF_SYNC` at all. However, the `NF_SYNC` function still provides finer granularity than the `NF_SHARE` flag, if only a few netCDF accesses need to be synchronized among processes.

It is important to note that changes to the ancillary data, such as attribute values, are not propagated automatically by use of the `NF_SHARE` flag. Use of the `NF_SYNC` function is still required for this purpose.

Sharing datasets when the writer enters define mode to change the data schema requires extra care. In previous releases, after the writer left define mode, the readers were left

looking at an old copy of the dataset, since the changes were made to a new copy. The only way readers could see the changes was by closing and reopening the dataset. Now the changes are made in place, but readers have no knowledge that their internal tables are now inconsistent with the new dataset schema. If netCDF datasets are shared across redefinition, some mechanism external to the netCDF library must be provided that prevents access by readers during redefinition and causes the readers to call `NF_SYNC` before any subsequent access.

When calling `NF_SYNC`, the netCDF dataset must be in data mode. A netCDF dataset in define mode is synchronized to disk only when `NF_ENDDEF` is called. A process that is reading a netCDF dataset that another process is writing may call `NF_SYNC` to get updated with the changes made to the data by the writing process (e.g., the number of records written), without having to close and reopen the dataset.

Data is automatically synchronized to disk when a netCDF dataset is closed, or whenever you leave define mode.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_SYNC(INTEGER NCID)
```

`NCID`        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

## Errors

`NF_SYNC` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The netCDF dataset is in define mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_SYNC` to synchronize the disk writes of a netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! write data or change attributes
...
STATUS = NF_SYNC(NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

### 2.17 NF\_ABORT

You no longer need to call this function, since it is called automatically by `NF_CLOSE` in case the dataset is in define mode and something goes wrong with committing the changes.

The function `NF_ABORT` just closes the netCDF dataset, if not in define mode. If the dataset is being created and is still in define mode, the dataset is deleted. If define mode was entered by a call to `NF_REDEF`, the netCDF dataset is restored to its state before definition mode was entered and the dataset is closed.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_ABORT(INTEGER NCID)
```

`NCID`        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

## Errors

`NF_ABORT` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- When called from define mode while creating a netCDF dataset, deletion of the dataset failed.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_ABORT` to back out of redefinitions of a dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, LATID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_REDEF(NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, 'LAT', 18, LATID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) THEN ! dimension definition failed
  CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
  STATUS = NF_ABORT(NCID) ! abort redefinitions
  IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
ENDIF
...
```

## 2.18 NF\_SET\_FILL

This function is intended for advanced usage, to optimize writes under some circumstances described below. The function `NF_SET_FILL` sets the fill mode for a netCDF dataset open for writing and returns the current fill mode in a return parameter. The fill mode can be specified as either `NF_FILL` or `NF_NOFILL`. The default behavior corresponding to `NF_FILL` is that data is pre-filled with fill values, that is fill values are written when you create non-record variables or when you write a value beyond data that has not yet

been written. This makes it possible to detect attempts to read data before it was written. See [Section 6.30 \[Fill Values\]](#), page 114, for more information on the use of fill values. See [Section “Attribute Conventions” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#), for information about how to define your own fill values.

The behavior corresponding to `NF_NOFILL` overrides the default behavior of prefilling data with fill values. This can be used to enhance performance, because it avoids the duplicate writes that occur when the netCDF library writes fill values that are later overwritten with data.

A value indicating which mode the netCDF dataset was already in is returned. You can use this value to temporarily change the fill mode of an open netCDF dataset and then restore it to the previous mode.

After you turn on `NF_NOFILL` mode for an open netCDF dataset, you must be certain to write valid data in all the positions that will later be read. Note that nofill mode is only a transient property of a netCDF dataset open for writing: if you close and reopen the dataset, it will revert to the default behavior. You can also revert to the default behavior by calling `NF_SET_FILL` again to explicitly set the fill mode to `NF_FILL`.

There are three situations where it is advantageous to set nofill mode:

1. Creating and initializing a netCDF dataset. In this case, you should set nofill mode before calling `NF_ENDDEF` and then write completely all non-record variables and the initial records of all the record variables you want to initialize.
2. Extending an existing record-oriented netCDF dataset. Set nofill mode after opening the dataset for writing, then append the additional records to the dataset completely, leaving no intervening unwritten records.
3. Adding new variables that you are going to initialize to an existing netCDF dataset. Set nofill mode before calling `NF_ENDDEF` then write all the new variables completely.

If the netCDF dataset has an unlimited dimension and the last record was written while in nofill mode, then the dataset may be shorter than if nofill mode was not set, but this will be completely transparent if you access the data only through the netCDF interfaces.

The use of this feature may not be available (or even needed) in future releases. Programmers are cautioned against heavy reliance upon this feature.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_SET_FILL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER FILLMODE,
                             INTEGER old_mode)
```

`NCID`        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

`FILLMODE`    Desired fill mode for the dataset, either `NF_NOFILL` or `NF_FILL`.

`old_mode`    Returned current fill mode of the dataset before this call, either `NF_NOFILL` or `NF_FILL`.

## Errors

`NF_SET_FILL` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID refers to a dataset open for read-only access.
- The fill mode argument is neither `NF_NOFILL` nor `NF_FILL`.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_SET_FILL` to set nofill mode for subsequent writes of a netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER NCID, STATUS, OMODE
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! write data with default prefilling behavior
...
STATUS = NF_SET_FILL(NCID, NF_NOFILL, OMODE)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! write data with no prefilling
...

```

## 2.19 NF\_SET\_DEFAULT\_FORMAT

This function is intended for advanced users.

In version 3.6, netCDF introduced a new data format, the first change in the underlying binary data format since the netCDF interface was released. The new format, 64-bit offset format, was introduced to greatly relax the limitations on creating very large files.

In version 4.0, another new binary format was introduced: netCDF-4/HDF5.

Users are warned that creating files in the 64-bit offset format makes them unreadable by the netCDF library prior to version 3.6.0, and creating files in netcdf-4/HDF5 format makes them unreadable by the netCDF library prior to version 4.0. For reasons of compatibility, users should continue to create files in netCDF classic format.

Users who do want to use 64-bit offset or netCDF-4/HDF5 format files can create them directly from `NF_CREATE`, using the proper `cmode` flag. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), [page 9](#)).

The function `NF_SET_DEFAULT_FORMAT` allows the user to change the format of the netCDF file to be created by future calls to `NF_CREATE` without changing the `cmode` flag.

This allows the user to convert a program to use the new formats without changing all calls the `NF_CREATE`.

Once the default format is set, all future created files will be in the desired format.

Constants are provided in the `netcdf.inc` file to be used with this function: `nf_format_classic`, `nf_format_64bit`, `nf_format_netcdf4` and `nf_format_netcdf4_classic`.

## Usage

```

    INTEGER FUNCTION NF_SET_DEFAULT_FORMAT(INTEGER FORMAT, INTEGER OLD_FORMAT)
FORMAT      Either    nf_format_classic,    nf_format_64bit,    nf_format_netcdf4    or
              nf_format_netcdf4_classic.
OLD_FORMAT
    The default format at the time the function is called is returned here.

```

## Errors

The following error codes may be returned by this function:

- An `NF_EINVAL` error is returned if an invalid default format is specified.

## Example

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, OLD_FORMAT
...
STATUS = NF_SET_DEFAULT_FORMAT(nf_format_64bit, OLD_FORMAT)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...

```

## 2.20 Set HDF5 Chunk Cache for Future File Opens/Creates: `NF_SET_CHUNK_CACHE`

This function changes the chunk cache settings in the HDF5 library. The settings apply for subsequent file opens/creates. This function does not change the chunk cache settings of already open files.

This affects the per-file chunk cache which the HDF5 layer maintains. The chunk cache size can be tuned for better performance.

For more information, see the documentation for the `H5Pset_cache()` function in the HDF5 library at the HDF5 website: <http://hdfgroup.org/HDF5/>.

## Usage

```

    INTEGER NF_SET_CHUNK_CACHE(INTEGER SIZE, INTEGER NELEMS, INTEGER PREEMPTION);
SIZE      The total size of the raw data chunk cache in MegaBytes.
NELEMS    The number slots in the per-variable chunk cache (should be a prime number
           larger than the number of chunks in the cache).
PREEMPTION
    The preemption value must be between 0 and 100 inclusive and indicates how
    much chunks that have been fully read are favored for preemption. A value of
    zero means fully read chunks are treated no differently than other chunks (the
    preemption is strictly LRU) while a value of 100 means fully read chunks are
    always preempted before other chunks.

```

## Return Codes

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_EINVAL`

Parameters `size` and `nelems` must be non-zero positive integers, and `preemption` must be between zero and 100 (inclusive). An `NF_EINVAL` will be returned otherwise.

## 2.21 Get the HDF5 Chunk Cache Settings for Future File Opens/Creates: `NF_GET_CHUNK_CACHE`

This function gets the chunk cache settings for the HDF5 library. The settings apply for subsequent file opens/creates.

This affects the per-file chunk cache which the HDF5 layer maintains. The chunk cache size can be tuned for better performance.

For more information, see the documentation for the `H5Pget_cache()` function in the HDF5 library at the HDF5 website: <http://hdfgroup.org/HDF5/>.

## Usage

```
INTEGER NC_GET_CHUNK_CACHE(INTEGER SIZE, INTEGER NELEMS, INTEGER PREEMPTION);
```

`SIZE` The total size of the raw data chunk cache will be put here.

`NELEMS` The number of chunk slots in the raw data chunk cache hash table will be put here.

`PREEMPTION`

The `preemption` will be put here. The `preemption` value is between 0 and 100 inclusive and indicates how much chunks that have been fully read are favored for `preemption`. A value of zero means fully read chunks are treated no differently than other chunks (the `preemption` is strictly LRU) while a value of 100 means fully read chunks are always preempted before other chunks.

## Return Codes

`NC_NOERR` No error.

## 3 Groups

NetCDF-4 added support for hierarchical groups within netCDF datasets.

Groups are identified with a `ncid`, which identifies both the open file, and the group within that file. When a file is opened with `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`, the `ncid` for the root group of that file is provided. Using that as a starting point, users can add new groups, or list and navigate existing groups.

All netCDF calls take a `ncid` which determines where the call will take its action. For example, the `NF_DEF_VAR` function takes a `ncid` as its first parameter. It will create a variable in whichever group its `ncid` refers to. Use the root `ncid` provided by `NF_CREATE` or `NF_OPEN` to create a variable in the root group. Or use `NF_DEF_GRP` to create a group and use its `ncid` to define a variable in the new group.

Variables are only visible in the group in which they are defined. The same applies to attributes. “Global” attributes are defined in whichever group is referred to by the `ncid`.

Dimensions are visible in their groups, and all child groups.

Group operations are only permitted on netCDF-4 files - that is, files created with the HDF5 flag in `nf_create`. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), page 9). Groups are not compatible with the netCDF classic data model, so files created with the `NF_CLASSIC_MODEL` file cannot contain groups (except the root group).

### 3.1 Find a Group ID: `NF_INQ_NCID`

Given an `ncid` and group name (`NULL` or `""` gets root group), return `ncid` of the named group.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_NCID(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER GRPID)
```

`NCID`        The group id for this operation.

`NAME`        A character array that holds the name of the desired group. Must be less than `NF_MAX_NAME`.

`GRPID`       The ID of the group will go here.

#### Errors

`NF_NOERR`    No error.

`NF_EBADID`    Bad group id.

`NF_ENOTNC4`    Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_ESTRICNC3`    This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_EHDFERR

An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C    Check getting the group by name
      retval = nf_inq_ncid(ncid, group_name, grp_id_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 3.2 Get a List of Groups in a Group: NF\_INQ\_GRP

Given a location id, return the number of groups it contains, and an array of their ncid's.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRP(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER NUMGRPS, INTEGER NCIDS)
```

NCID        The group id for this operation.

NUMGRPS    An integer which will get number of groups in this group.

NCIDS       An array of ints which will receive the IDs of all the groups in this group.

### Errors

NF\_NOERR    No error.

NF\_EBADID    Bad group id.

NF\_ENOTNC4    Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_ESTRICNC3    This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_EHDFERR    An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C    What groups are there from the root group?
      retval = nf_inq_grps(ncid, ngroups_in, grp_ids)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 3.3 Find all the Variables in a Group: NF\_INQ\_VARIDS

Find all varids for a location.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARIDS(INTEGER NCID, INTEGERS VARIDS)
```

- NCID**        The group id for this operation.
- VARIDS**     An already allocated array to store the list of varids. Use `nf_inq_nvars` to find out how many variables there are. (see [Section 2.15 \[NF\\_INQ Family\]](#), page 21).

## Errors

- NF\_NOERR**   No error.
- NF\_EBADID**    Bad group id.
- NF\_ENOTNC4**   Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).
- NF\_ESTRICTNC3**   This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).
- NF\_EHDFERR**   An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C        Check varids in subgroup.
          retval = nf_inq_varids(subgrp_in, nvars, varids_in)
          if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 3.4 Find all Dimensions Visible in a Group: NF\_INQ\_DIMIDS

Find all dimids for a location. This finds all dimensions in a group, or any of its parents.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_DIMIDS(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER DIMIDS, INTEGER INCLUDE_PARENTS)
```

- NCID**        The group id for this operation.
- DIMIDS**     An array of ints when the dimids of the visible dimensions will be stashed. Use `nf_inq_ndims` to find out how many dims are visible from this group. (see [Section 2.15 \[NF\\_INQ Family\]](#), page 21).
- INCLUDE\_PARENTS**   If zero, only the group specified by NCID will be searched for dimensions. Otherwise parent groups will be searched too.

## Errors

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_EBADID  
Bad group id.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_ESTRICNC3  
This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_EHDFERR  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```

C      Check dimids in subgroup.
      retval = nf_inq_dimids(subgrp_in, ndims, dimids_in, 0)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (ndims .ne. 2 .or. dimids_in(1) .ne. dimids(1) .or.
&      dimids_in(2) .ne. dimids(2)) stop 2

```

## 3.5 Find the Length of a Group's Name: NF\_INQ\_GRPNAME\_LEN

Given `ncid`, find length of the full name. (Root group is named `"/`", with length 1.)

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRPNAME_LEN(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER LEN)
```

NCID The group id for this operation.

LEN An integer where the length will be placed.

## Errors

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_EBADID  
Bad group id.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRIC3**

This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**

An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

**Example**

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C      Check the length of the full name.
      retval = nf_inq_grpname_len(grpids(1), full_name_len)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

**3.6 Find a Group's Name: NF\_INQ\_GRPNAME**

Given `ncid`, find relative name of group. (Root group is named `"/`).

The name provided by this function is relative to the parent group. For a full path name for the group is, with all parent groups included, separated with a forward slash (as in Unix directory names) See [Section 3.7 \[NF\\_INQ\\_GRPNAME\\_FULL\]](#), page 34.

**Usage**

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRPNAME(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME)
```

**NCID**        The group id for this operation.

**NAME**        The name of the group will be copied to this character array. The name will be less than `NF_MAX_NAME` in length.

**Errors**

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADID**    Bad group id.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**    Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRIC3**    This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**    An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C      Check the name of the root group.
      retval = nf_inq_grpname(ncid, name_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (name_in(1:1) .ne. '/') stop 2
```

## 3.7 Find a Group's Full Name: `NF_INQ_GRPNAME_FULL`

Given `ncid`, find complete name of group. (Root group is named `"/`).

The name provided by this function is a full path name for the group is, with all parent groups included, separated with a forward slash (as in Unix directory names). For a name relative to the parent group See [Section 3.6 \[NF\\_INQ\\_GRPNAME\]](#), page 33.

To find the length of the full name See [Section 3.5 \[NF\\_INQ\\_GRPNAME\\_LEN\]](#), page 32.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRPNAME_FULL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER LEN, CHARACTER*(*) NAME)
```

**NCID**        The group id for this operation.

**LEN**        The length of the full group name will go here.

**NAME**        The name of the group will be copied to this character array.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADID**    Bad group id.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**    Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRICNC3**    This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**    An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C      Check the full name.
      retval = nf_inq_grpname_full(grpids(1), full_name_len, name_in2)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 3.8 Find a Group's Parent: `NF_INQ_GRP_PARENT`

Given `ncid`, find the `ncid` of the parent group.

When used with the root group, this function returns the `NF_ENOGRP` error (since the root group has no parent.)

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRP_PARENT(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER PARENT_NCID)
```

`NCID`        The group id.

`PARENT_NCID`  
              The `ncid` of the parent group will be copied here.

#### Errors

`NF_NOERR`    No error.

`NF_EBADID`  
              Bad group id.

`NF_ENOGRP`  
              No parent group found (i.e. this is the root group).

`NF_ENOTNC4`  
              Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_ESTRICTNC3`  
              This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_EHDFERR`  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

#### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C        Check the parent ncid.
          retval = nf_inq_grp_parent(grpids(1), grp_id_in)
          if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 3.9 Find a Group by Name: `NF_INQ_GRP_NCID`

Given a group name and an `ncid`, find the `ncid` of the group id.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRP_NCID(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER GRP_NAME, INTEGER GRP_NCID)
```

`NCID`        The group id to look in.

GRP\_NAME The name of the group that should be found.

GRP\_NCID This will get the group id, if it is found.

## Return Codes

The following return codes may be returned by this function.

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_EBADID  
Bad group id.

NF\_EINVAL  
No name provided or name longer than NF\_MAX\_NAME.

NF\_ENOGRP  
Named group not found.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_ESTRICNC3  
This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_EHDFERR  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_types3.F`.

```
C      Go to a child group and find the id of our type.
      retval = nf_inq_grp_ncid(ncid, group_name, sub_grpid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 3.10 Find a Group by its Fully-qualified Name: NF\_INQ\_GRP\_FULL\_NCID

Given a fully qualified group name and an ncid, find the ncid of the group id.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_GRP_FULL_NCID(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER FULL_NAME, INTEGER GRP_NCID)
```

NCID The group id to look in.

FULL\_NAME  
The fully-qualified group name.

GRP\_NCID This will get the group id, if it is found.

## Return Codes

The following return codes may be returned by this function.

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_EBADID`  
Bad group id.

`NF_EINVAL`  
No name provided or name longer than `NF_MAX_NAME`.

`NF_ENOGRP`  
Named group not found.

`NF_ENOTNC4`  
Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_ESTRICNC3`  
This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_EHDFERR`  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`.

```
C      Check the full name of the root group (also "/").
      retval = nf_inq_grpname_full(ncid, full_name_len, name_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 3.11 Create a New Group: `NF_DEF_GRP`

Create a group. Its location id is returned in `new_ncid`.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_GRP(INTEGER PARENT_NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                           INTEGER NEW_NCID)
```

`PARENT_NCID`  
The group id of the parent group.

`NAME`  
The name of the new group.

`NEW_NCID`  
The ncid of the new group will be placed there.

## Errors

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_EBADID  
Bad group id.

NF\_ENAMEINUSE  
That name is in use. Group names must be unique within a group.

NF\_EMAXNAME  
Name exceed max length NF\_MAX\_NAME.

NF\_EBADNAME  
Name contains illegal characters.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag HDF5. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_ESTRICTNC3  
This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

NF\_EHDFERR  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

NF\_EPERM Attempt to write to a read-only file.

NF\_ENOTINDEFINE  
Not in define mode.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_groups.F`, a group is created, and then a sub-group is created in that group.

```
C      Create the netCDF file.
      retval = nf_create(file_name, NF_NETCDF4, ncid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Create a group and a subgroup.
      retval = nf_def_grp(ncid, group_name, grp_id)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_def_grp(grp_id, sub_group_name, sub_grp_id)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 4 Dimensions

### 4.1 Dimensions Introduction

Dimensions for a netCDF dataset are defined when it is created, while the netCDF dataset is in define mode. Additional dimensions may be added later by reentering define mode. A netCDF dimension has a name and a length. At most one dimension in a netCDF dataset can have the unlimited length, which means variables using this dimension can grow along this dimension.

There is a suggested limit (100) to the number of dimensions that can be defined in a single netCDF dataset. The limit is the value of the predefined macro `NF_MAX_DIMS`. The purpose of the limit is to make writing generic applications simpler. They need only provide an array of `NF_MAX_DIMS` dimensions to handle any netCDF dataset. The implementation of the netCDF library does not enforce this advisory maximum, so it is possible to use more dimensions, if necessary, but netCDF utilities that assume the advisory maximums may not be able to handle the resulting netCDF datasets.

Ordinarily, the name and length of a dimension are fixed when the dimension is first defined. The name may be changed later, but the length of a dimension (other than the unlimited dimension) cannot be changed without copying all the data to a new netCDF dataset with a redefined dimension length.

A netCDF dimension in an open netCDF dataset is referred to by a small integer called a dimension ID. In the FORTRAN interface, dimension IDs are 1, 2, 3, ..., in the order in which the dimensions were defined.

Operations supported on dimensions are:

- Create a dimension, given its name and length.
- Get a dimension ID from its name.
- Get a dimension's name and length from its ID.
- Rename a dimension.

### 4.2 `NF_DEF_DIM`

The function `NF_DEF_DIM` adds a new dimension to an open netCDF dataset in define mode. It returns (as an argument) a dimension ID, given the netCDF ID, the dimension name, and the dimension length. At most one unlimited length dimension, called the record dimension, may be defined for each netCDF dataset.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_DIM (INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                             INTEGER LEN, INTEGER dimid)
```

**NCID**        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**NAME**        Dimension name.

**LEN**         Length of dimension; that is, number of values for this dimension as an index to variables that use it. This should be either a positive integer or the predefined constant `NF_UNLIMITED`.

`dimid`      Returned dimension ID.

## Errors

`NF_DEF_DIM` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The netCDF dataset is not in definition mode.
- The specified dimension name is the name of another existing dimension.
- The specified length is not greater than zero.
- The specified length is unlimited, but there is already an unlimited length dimension defined for this netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_DEF_DIM` to create a dimension named `lat` of length 18 and a unlimited dimension named `rec` in a new netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, LATID, RECID
...
STATUS = NF_CREATE('foo.nc', NF_NOGLOBBER, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, 'lat', 18, LATID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, 'rec', NF_UNLIMITED, RECID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 4.3 NF\_INQ\_DIMID

The function `NF_INQ_DIMID` returns (as an argument) the ID of a netCDF dimension, given the name of the dimension. If `ndims` is the number of dimensions defined for a netCDF dataset, each dimension has an ID between 1 and `ndims`.

## Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_DIMID (INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                              INTEGER dimid)

```

`NCID`      NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

`NAME`      Dimension name.

`dimid`      Returned dimension ID.

## Errors

NF\_INQ\_DIMID returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The name that was specified is not the name of a dimension in the netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_INQ\_DIMID to determine the dimension ID of a dimension named lat, assumed to have been defined previously in an existing netCDF dataset named foo.nc:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, LATID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_DIMID(NCID, 'lat', LATID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 4.4 NF\_INQ\_DIM Family

This family of functions returns information about a netCDF dimension. Information about a dimension includes its name and its length. The length for the unlimited dimension, if any, is the number of records written so far.

The functions in this family include NF\_INQ\_DIM, NF\_INQ\_DIMNAME, and NF\_INQ\_DIMLEN. The function NF\_INQ\_DIM returns all the information about a dimension; the other functions each return just one item of information.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_DIM      (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER DIMID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) name, INTEGER len)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_DIMNAME (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER DIMID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) name)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_DIMLEN  (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER DIMID,
                                INTEGER len)
```

NCID	NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF_OPEN or NF_CREATE.
DIMID	Dimension ID, from a previous call to NF_INQ_DIMID or NF_DEF_DIM.
NAME	Returned dimension name. The caller must allocate space for the returned name. The maximum possible length, in characters, of a dimension name is given by the predefined constant NF_MAX_NAME.
len	Returned length of dimension. For the unlimited dimension, this is the current maximum value used for writing any variables with this dimension, that is the maximum record number.

## Errors

These functions return the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The dimension ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_INQ_DIM` to determine the length of a dimension named `lat`, and the name and current maximum length of the unlimited dimension for an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, LATID, LATLEN, RECID, NRECS
CHARACTER*(NF_MAX_NAME) LATNAM, RECNAME
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
! get ID of unlimited dimension
STATUS = NF_INQ_UNLIMDIM(NCID, RECID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_DIMID(NCID, 'lat', LATID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
! get lat length
STATUS = NF_INQ_DIMLEN(NCID, LATID, LATLEN)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
! get unlimited dimension name and current length
STATUS = NF_INQ_DIM(NCID, RECID, RECNAME, NRECS)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 4.5 NF\_RENAME\_DIM

The function `NF_RENAME_DIM` renames an existing dimension in a netCDF dataset open for writing. If the new name is longer than the old name, the netCDF dataset must be in define mode. You cannot rename a dimension to have the same name as another dimension.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_RENAME_DIM (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER DIMID,
                               CHARACTER*(*) NAME)

```

**NCID**        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**DIMID**       Dimension ID, from a previous call to `NF_INQ_DIMID` or `NF_DEF_DIM`.

**NAME**        New dimension name.

## Errors

NF\_RENAME\_DIM returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The new name is the name of another dimension.
- The dimension ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.
- The new name is longer than the old name and the netCDF dataset is not in define mode.

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_RENAME\_DIM to rename the dimension lat to latitude in an existing netCDF dataset named foo.nc:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, LATID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! put in define mode to rename dimension
STATUS = NF_REDEF(NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_DIMID(NCID, 'lat', LATID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_RENAME_DIM(NCID, LATID, 'latitude')
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
! leave define mode
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF(NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```



## 5 User Defined Data Types

### 5.1 User Defined Types Introduction

NetCDF-4 has added support for four different user defined data types.

#### compound type

Like a C struct, a compound type is a collection of types, including other user defined types, in one package.

#### variable length array type

The variable length array may be used to store ragged arrays.

#### opaque type

This type has only a size per element, and no other type information.

**enum type** Like an enumeration in C, this type lets you assign text values to integer values, and store the integer values.

Users may construct user defined type with the various `NF_DEF_*` functions described in this section. They may learn about user defined types by using the `NF_INQ_` functions defined in this section.

Once types are constructed, define variables of the new type with `NF_DEF_VAR` (see [Section 6.3 \[NF\\_DEF\\_VAR\]](#), page 70). Write to them with `NF_PUT_VAR1`, `NF_PUT_VAR`, `NF_PUT_VARA`, or `NF_PUT_VARS` (see [Chapter 6 \[Variables\]](#), page 69). Read data of user-defined type with `NF_GET_VAR1`, `NF_GET_VAR`, `NF_GET_VARA`, or `NF_GET_VARS` (see [Chapter 6 \[Variables\]](#), page 69).

Create attributes of the new type with `NF_PUT_ATT` (see [Section 7.2 \[NF\\_PUT\\_ATT\\_type\]](#), page 119). Read attributes of the new type with `NF_GET_ATT` (see [Section 7.4 \[NF\\_GET\\_ATT\\_type\]](#), page 123).

### 5.2 Learn the IDs of All Types in Group: NF\_INQ\_TYPEIDS

Learn the number of types defined in a group, and their IDs.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_TYPEIDS(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER NTYPES,
                                INTEGER TYPEIDS)
```

**NCID** The group id.

**NTYPES** A pointer to int which will get the number of types defined in the group. If NULL, ignored.

**TYPEIDS** A pointer to an int array which will get the typeids. If NULL, ignored.

#### Errors

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad ncid.

## Example

The following example is from the test program `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`.

```
retval = nf_inq_typeids(ncid, num_types, typeids)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 5.3 Find a Typeid from Group and Name: `NF_INQ_TYPEID`

Given a group ID and a type name, find the ID of the type. If the type is not found in the group, then the parents are searched. If still not found, the entire file is searched.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_TYPEID(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER NAME, NF_TYPE TYPEIDP)
```

`NCID`        The group id.  
`NAME`        The name of a type.  
`TYPEIDP`     The typeid of the named type (if found).

### Errors

`NF_NOERR`    No error.  
`NF_EBADID`    Bad ncid.  
`NF_EBADTYPE` Can't find type.

## Example

The following example is from `nf_test/ftst_types3.F`:

```
C        Go to a child group and find the id of our type.
retval = nf_inq_grp_ncid(ncid, group_name, sub_grpid)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
retval = nf_inq_typeid(sub_grpid, type_name, typeid_in)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 5.4 Learn About a User Defined Type: `NF_INQ_TYPE`

Given an ncid and a typeid, get the information about a type. This function will work on any type, including atomic and any user defined type, whether compound, opaque, enumeration, or variable length array.

For even more information about a user defined type [Section 5.5 \[NF\\_INQ\\_USER\\_TYPE\]](#), [page 48](#).

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_TYPE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
                             CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER SIZE)
```

- NCID**        The ncid for the group containing the type (ignored for atomic types).
- XTYPE**      The typeid for this type, as returned by `NF_DEF_COMPOUND`, `NF_DEF_OPAQUE`, `NF_DEF_ENUM`, `NF_DEF_VLEN`, or `NF_INQ_VAR`, or as found in `netcdf.inc` in the list of atomic types (`NF_CHAR`, `NF_INT`, etc.).
- NAME**        The name of the user defined type will be copied here. It will be `NF_MAX_NAME` bytes or less. For atomic types, the type name from CDL will be given.
- SIZEP**        The (in-memory) size of the type (in bytes) will be copied here. `VLEN` type size is the size of one vlen sturture (i.e. the sice of `nc_vlen_t`). String size is returned as the size of one C character pointer.

## Return Codes

- NF\_NOERR**    No error.
- NF\_EBADTYPEID**  
              Bad typeid.
- NF\_ENOTNC4**  
              Seeking a user-defined type in a netCDF-3 file.
- NF\_ESTRICNC3**  
              Seeking a user-defined type in a netCDF-4 file for which classic model has been turned on.
- NF\_EBADGRPID**  
              Bad group ID in ncid.
- NF\_EBADID**  
              Type ID not found.
- NF\_EHDFERR**  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from the test program `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`, and it uses all the possible inquiry functions on an enum type.

```
C        Check the enum type.
          retval = NF_INQ_TYPEIDS(ncid, num_types, typeids)
          if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
          if (num_types .ne. MAX_TYPES) stop 2
          retval = nf_inq_enum(ncid, typeids(1), type_name, base_type,
          &        base_size, num_members)
          if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

```

    if (base_type .ne. NF_INT .or. num_members .ne. 2) stop 2
    retval = nf_inq_enum_member(ncid, typeids(1), 1, member_name,
&      member_value)
    if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
    if (member_name(1:len(one_name)) .ne. one_name) stop 2

```

## 5.5 Learn About a User Defined Type: NF\_INQ\_USER\_TYPE

Given an ncid and a typeid, get the information about a user defined type. This function will work on any user defined type, whether compound, opaque, enumeration, or variable length array.

### Usage

```

    INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_USER_TYPE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
    CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER SIZE, INTEGER BASE_NF_TYPE,
    INTEGER NFIELDS, INTEGER CLASS)

```

**NCID**        The ncid for the group containing the user defined type.

**XTYPE**       The typeid for this type, as returned by NF\_DEF\_COMPOUND, NF\_DEF\_OPAQUE, NF\_DEF\_ENUM, NF\_DEF\_VLEN, or NF\_INQ\_VAR.

**NAME**        The name of the user defined type will be copied here. It will be NF\_MAX\_NAME bytes or less.

**SIZE**        The (in-memory) size of the user defined type will be copied here.

**BASE\_NF\_TYPE**  
The base typeid will be copied here for vlen and enum types.

**NFIELDS**     The number of fields will be copied here for enum and compound types.

**CLASS**       The class of the user defined type, NF\_VLEN, NF\_OPAQUE, NF\_ENUM, or NF\_COMPOUND, will be copied here.

### Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADTYPEID**  
Bad typeid.

**NF\_EBADFIELDID**  
Bad fieldid.

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_types2.F`.

```
C      Check the type.
      retval = nf_inq_user_type(ncid, typeids(1), name_in, size_in,
&      base_type_in, nfields_in, class_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 5.6 Compound Types Introduction

NetCDF-4 added support for compound types, which allow users to construct a new type - a combination of other types, like a C struct.

Compound types are not supported in classic or 64-bit offset format files.

To write data in a compound type, first use `nf_def_compound` to create the type, multiple calls to `nf_insert_compound` to add to the compound type, and then write data with the appropriate `nf_put_var1`, `nf_put_vara`, `nf_put_vars`, or `nf_put_varm` call.

To read data written in a compound type, you must know its structure. Use the `NF_INQ_COMPOUND` functions to learn about the compound type.

In Fortran a character buffer must be used for the compound data. The user must read the data from within that buffer in the same way that the C compiler which compiled netCDF would store the structure.

The use of compound types introduces challenges and portability issues for Fortran users.

### 5.6.1 Creating a Compound Type: `NF_DEF_COMPOUND`

Create a compound type. Provide an `ncid`, a name, and a total size (in bytes) of one element of the completed compound type.

After calling this function, fill out the type with repeated calls to `NF_INSERT_COMPOUND` (see [Section 5.6.2 \[NF\\_INSERT\\_COMPOUND\]](#), [page 50](#)). Call `NF_INSERT_COMPOUND` once for each field you wish to insert into the compound type.

Note that there does not seem to be a way to read such types into structures in Fortran 90 (and there are no structures in Fortran 77).

Fortran users may use character buffers to read and write compound types.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_COMPOUND(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER SIZE,
CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER TYPEIDP)
```

`NCID`        The groupid where this compound type will be created.

`SIZE`        The size, in bytes, of the compound type.

`NAME`        The name of the new compound type.

`TYPEIDP`     The typeid of the new type will be placed here.

## Errors

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_EBADID`  
Bad group id.

`NF_ENAMEINUSE`  
That name is in use. Compound type names must be unique in the data file.

`NF_EMAXNAME`  
Name exceeds max length `NF_MAX_NAME`.

`NF_EBADNAME`  
Name contains illegal characters.

`NF_ENOTNC4`  
Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag `NF_NETCDF4`. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_ESTRICTNC3`  
This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

`NF_EHDFERR`  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

`NF_EPERM` Attempt to write to a read-only file.

`NF_ENOTINDEFINE`  
Not in define mode.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_types2.F`.

```
C    Define a compound type.
      retval = nf_def_compound(ncid, cmp_size, type_name,
&      cmp_typeid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 5.6.2 Inserting a Field into a Compound Type: `NF_INSERT_COMPOUND`

Insert a named field into a compound type.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INSERT_COMPOUND(INTEGER TYPEID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER OFFSET,
      INTEGER FIELD_TYPEID)
```

`TYPEID` The typeid for this compound type, as returned by `NF_DEF_COMPOUND`, or `NF_INQ_VAR`.

`NAME` The name of the new field.

**OFFSET**      Offset in byte from the beginning of the compound type for this field.

**FIELD\_TYPEID**  
                 The type of the field to be inserted.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADID**  
                 Bad group id.

**NF\_ENAMEINUSE**  
                 That name is in use. Field names must be unique within a compound type.

**NF\_EMAXNAME**  
                 Name exceed max length `NF_MAX_NAME`.

**NF\_EBADNAME**  
                 Name contains illegal characters.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
                 Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag `NF_NETCDF4`. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRICTNC3**  
                 This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
                 An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**  
                 Not in define mode.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_types.F`.

```

C     Define a compound type.
      retval = nf_def_compound(ncid, WIND_T_SIZE, type_name,
&       wind_typeid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_insert_compound(ncid, wind_typeid, u_name, 0, NF_INT)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_insert_compound(ncid, wind_typeid, v_name, 4, NF_INT)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

### 5.6.3 Inserting an Array Field into a Compound Type: **NF\_INSERT\_ARRAY\_COMPOUND**

Insert a named array field into a compound type.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INSERT_ARRAY_COMPOUND(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER OFFSET, INTEGER FIELD_TYPEID,
INTEGER NDIMS, INTEGER DIM_SIZES)
```

**NCID**        The ID of the file that contains the array type and the compound type.

**XTYPE**      The typeid for this compound type, as returned by `nf_def_compound`, or `nf_inq_var`.

**NAME**        The name of the new field.

**OFFSET**     Offset in byte from the beginning of the compound type for this field.

**FIELD\_TYPEID**  
              The base type of the array to be inserted.

**NDIMS**      The number of dimensions for the array to be inserted.

**DIM\_SIZES**  
              An array containing the sizes of each dimension.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADID**  
              Bad group id.

**NF\_ENAMEINUSE**  
              That name is in use. Field names must be unique within a compound type.

**NF\_EMAXNAME**  
              Name exceed max length `NF_MAX_NAME`.

**NF\_EBADNAME**  
              Name contains illegal characters.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
              Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag `NF_NETCDF4`. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRICTNC3**  
              This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**  
              Not in define mode.

**NF\_ETYPEDEFINED**  
              Attempt to change type that has already been committed. The first time the file leaves define mode, all defined types are committed, and can't be changed.

If you wish to add an array to a compound type, you must do so before the compound type is committed.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_types2.F`.

```

C      Define a compound type.
      retval = nf_def_compound(ncid, cmp_size, type_name,
&      cmp_typeid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Include an array.
      dim_sizes(1) = NX
      dim_sizes(2) = NY
      retval = nf_insert_array_compound(ncid, cmp_typeid, ary_name, 0,
&      NF_INT, NDIMS, dim_sizes)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

### 5.6.4 Learn About a Compound Type: `NF_INQ_COMPOUND`

Get the number of fields, length in bytes, and name of a compound type.

In addition to the `NF_INQ_COMPOUND` function, three additional functions are provided which get only the name, size, and number of fields.

## Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
      CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER SIZEP, INTEGER NFIELDSP)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_NAME(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
      CHARACTER*(*) NAME)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_SIZE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
      INTEGER SIZEP)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_NFIELDS(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
      INTEGER NFIELDSP)

```

**NCID**        The ID of any group in the file that contains the compound type.

**XTYPE**       The typeid for this compound type, as returned by `NF_DEF_COMPOUND`, or `NF_INQ_VAR`.

**NAME**        Character array which will get the name of the compound type. It will have a maximum length of `NF_MAX_NAME`.

**SIZEP**       The size of the compound type in bytes will be put here.

**NFIELDSP**    The number of fields in the compound type will be placed here.

## Return Codes

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_EBADID  
Couldn't find this ncid.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Not a netCDF-4/HDF5 file.

NF\_ESTRICNC3  
A netCDF-4/HDF5 file, but with CLASSIC\_MODEL. No user defined types are allowed in the classic model.

NF\_EBADTYPE  
This type not a compound type.

NF\_EBADTYPEID  
Bad type id.

NF\_EHDFERR  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_types.F`.

```

C      Check it differently.
      retval = nf_inq_compound(ncid, typeids(1), name_in, size_in,
&      nfields_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (name_in(1:len(type_name)) .ne. type_name .or.
&      size_in .ne. WIND_T_SIZE .or. nfields_in .ne. 2) stop 2

C      Check it one piece at a time.
      retval = nf_inq_compound_nfields(ncid, typeids(1), nfields_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (nfields_in .ne. 2) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_compound_size(ncid, typeids(1), size_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (size_in .ne. WIND_T_SIZE) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_compound_name(ncid, typeids(1), name_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (name_in(1:len(type_name)) .ne. type_name) stop 2

```

### 5.6.5 Learn About a Field of a Compound Type: NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELD

Get information about one of the fields of a compound type.

## Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELD(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,

```

```
INTEGER FIELDID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER OFFSETP,
INTEGER FIELD_TYPEIDP, INTEGER NDIMSP, INTEGER DIM_SIZESP)
```

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELDNAME(INTEGER TYPEID,
INTEGER FIELDID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME)
```

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELDINDEX(INTEGER TYPEID,
CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER FIELDIDP)
```

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELDOFFSET(INTEGER TYPEID,
INTEGER FIELDID, INTEGER OFFSETP)
```

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELDTYPE(INTEGER TYPEID,
INTEGER FIELDID, INTEGER FIELD_TYPEIDP)
```

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELDNDIMS(INTEGER NCID,
INTEGER XTYPE, INTEGER FIELDID, INTEGER NDIMSP)
```

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_COMPOUND_FIELDDIM_SIZES(INTEGER NCID,
INTEGER XTYPE, INTEGER FIELDID, INTEGER DIM_SIZES)
```

- NCID**        The groupid where this compound type exists.
- XTYPE**      The typeid for this compound type, as returned by `NF_DEF_COMPOUND`, or `NF_INQ_VAR`.
- FIELDID**    A one-based index number specifying a field in the compound type.
- NAME**        A character array which will get the name of the field. The name will be `NF_MAX_NAME` characters, at most.
- OFFSETP**    An integer which will get the offset of the field.
- FIELD\_TYPEID**  
              An integer which will get the typeid of the field.
- NDIMSP**     An integer which will get the number of dimensions of the field.
- DIM\_SIZESP**  
              An integer array which will get the dimension sizes of the field.

## Errors

- NF\_NOERR**    No error.
- NF\_EBADTYPEID**  
              Bad type id.
- NF\_EHDFERR**  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/fst_types.F`.

```

C      Check the first field of the compound type.
      retval = nf_inq_compound_field(ncid, typeids(1), 1, name_in,
&      offset_in, field_typeid_in, ndims_in, dim_sizes_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (name_in(1:len(u_name)) .ne. u_name .or. offset_in .ne. 0 .or.
&      field_typeid_in .ne. NF_INT .or. ndims_in .ne. 0) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_compound_fieldname(ncid, typeids(1), 1, name_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (name_in(1:len(u_name)) .ne. u_name) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_compound_fieldoffset(ncid, typeids(1), 1,
&      offset_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (offset_in .ne. 0) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_compound_fielddtype(ncid, typeids(1), 1,
&      field_typeid_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (field_typeid_in .ne. NF_INT) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_compound_fieldndims(ncid, typeids(1), 1,
&      ndims_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (ndims_in .ne. 0) stop 2

```

## 5.7 Variable Length Array Introduction

NetCDF-4 added support for a variable length array type. This is not supported in classic or 64-bit offset files, or in netCDF-4 files which were created with the `NF_CLASSIC_MODEL` flag.

A variable length array is represented in C as a structure from HDF5, the `nf_vlen_t` structure. It contains a `len` member, which contains the length of that array, and a pointer to the array.

So an array of `VLEN` in C is an array of `nc_vlen_t` structures. The only way to handle this in Fortran is with a character buffer sized correctly for the platform.

The extra access functions `NF_GET_VLEN_ELEMENT` and `NF_PUT_VLEN_ELEMENT` to get and put one `VLEN` element. (That is, one array of variable length.) When calling the put, the data are not copied from the source. When calling the get the data are copied from `VLEN` allocated memory, which must still be freed (see below).

`VLEN` arrays are handled differently with respect to allocation of memory. Generally, when reading data, it is up to the user to `malloc` (and subsequently free) the memory needed to hold the data. It is up to the user to ensure that enough memory is allocated.

With `VLENs`, this is impossible. The user cannot know the size of an array of `VLEN` until after reading the array. Therefore when reading `VLEN` arrays, the netCDF library will allocate the memory for the data within each `VLEN`.

It is up to the user, however, to eventually free this memory. This is not just a matter of one call to free, with the pointer to the array of VLENs; each VLEN contains a pointer which must be freed.

Compression is permitted but may not be effective for VLEN data, because the compression is applied to the `nc_vlen_t` structures, rather than the actual data.

### 5.7.1 Define a Variable Length Array (VLEN): `NF_DEF_VLEN`

Use this function to define a variable length array type.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_VLEN(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                             INTEGER BASE_TYPEID, INTEGER XTYPEP)
```

`NCID`        The `ncid` of the file to create the VLEN type in.

`NAME`        A name for the VLEN type.

`BASE_TYPEID`

The `typeid` of the base type of the VLEN. For example, for a VLEN of shorts, the base type is `NF_SHORT`. This can be a user defined type.

`XTYPEP`      The `typeid` of the new VLEN type will be set here.

#### Errors

`NF_NOERR`    No error.

`NF_EMAXNAME`

`NF_MAX_NAME` exceeded.

`NF_ENAMEINUSE`

Name is already in use.

`NF_EBADNAME`

Attribute or variable name contains illegal characters.

`NF_EBADID`

`ncid` invalid.

`NF_EBADGRPID`

Group ID part of `ncid` was invalid.

`NF_EINVAL`

Size is invalid.

`NF_ENOMEM`

Out of memory.

#### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars4.F`.

```
C        Create the vlen type.
          retval = nf_def_vlen(ncid, vlen_type_name, nf_int, vlen_typeid)
          if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 5.7.2 Learning about a Variable Length Array (VLEN) Type: NF\_INQ\_VLEN

Use this type to learn about a vlen.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VLEN(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
    CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER DATUM_SIZEP, INTEGER
    BASE_NF_TYPEP)
```

NCID        The ncid of the file that contains the VLEN type.

XTYPE       The type of the VLEN to inquire about.

NAME        The name of the VLEN type. The name will be NF\_MAX\_NAME characters or less.

DATUM\_SIZEP  
            A pointer to a size\_t, this will get the size of one element of this vlen.

BASE\_NF\_TYPEP  
            An integer that will get the type of the VLEN base type. (In other words, what type is this a VLEN of?)

#### Errors

NF\_NOERR    No error.

NF\_EBADTYPE  
            Can't find the typeid.

NF\_EBADID  
            ncid invalid.

NF\_EBADGRPID  
            Group ID part of ncid was invalid.

#### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars4.F`.

```
C        Use nf_inq_vlen and make sure we get the same answers as we did
C        with nf_inq_user_type.
      retval = nf_inq_vlen(ncid, typeids(1), type_name, base_size,
      &        base_type)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 5.7.3 Releasing Memory for a Variable Length Array (VLEN) Type: NF\_FREE\_VLEN

When a VLEN is read into user memory from the file, the HDF5 library performs memory allocations for each of the variable length arrays contained within the VLEN structure. This memory must be freed by the user to avoid memory leaks.

This violates the normal netCDF expectation that the user is responsible for all memory allocation. But, with VLEN arrays, the underlying HDF5 library allocates the memory for the user, and the user is responsible for deallocating that memory.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_FREE_VLEN(CHARACTER VL);
```

VL            The variable length array structure which is to be freed.

## Errors

NF\_NOERR    No error.

NF\_EBADTYPE  
            Can't find the typeid.

## Example

### 5.7.4 Set a Variable Length Array with NF\_PUT\_VLEN\_ELEMENT

Use this to set the element of the (potentially) n-dimensional array of VLEN. That is, this sets the data in one variable length array.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VLEN_ELEMENT(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,  
                                      CHARACTER*(*) VLEN_ELEMENT, INTEGER LEN, DATA)
```

NCID         The ncid of the file that contains the VLEN type.

XTYPE        The type of the VLEN.

VLEN\_ELEMENT  
              The VLEN element to be set.

LEN          The number of entries in this array.

DATA         The data to be stored. Must match the base type of this VLEN.

## Errors

NF\_NOERR    No error.

NF\_EBADTYPE  
            Can't find the typeid.

NF\_EBADID  
            ncid invalid.

NF\_EBADGRPID  
            Group ID part of ncid was invalid.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars4.F`.

```

C      Set up the vlen with this helper function, since F77 can't deal
C      with pointers.
      retval = nf_put_vlen_element(ncid, vlen_typeid, vlen,
&      vlen_len, data1)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

### 5.7.5 Set a Variable Length Array with NF\_GET\_VLEN\_ELEMENT

Use this to set the element of the (potentially) n-dimensional array of VLEN. That is, this sets the data in one variable length array.

## Usage

```

      INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VLEN_ELEMENT(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
      CHARACTER*(*) VLEN_ELEMENT, INTEGER LEN, DATA)

```

**NCID**        The ncid of the file that contains the VLEN type.

**XTYPE**       The type of the VLEN.

**VLEN\_ELEMENT**  
              The VLEN element to be set.

**LEN**         This will be set to the number of entries in this array.

**DATA**        The data will be copied here. Sufficient storage must be available or bad things will happen to you.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADTYPE**  
              Can't find the typeid.

**NF\_EBADID**  
              ncid invalid.

**NF\_EBADGRPID**  
              Group ID part of ncid was invalid.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars4.F`.

```

C      Read the vlen attribute.
      retval = nf_get_att(ncid, NF_GLOBAL, 'att1', vlen_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Get the data from the vlen we just read.

```

```

    retval = nf_get_vlen_element(ncid, vlen_typeid, vlen_in,
&    vlen_len_in, data1_in)
    if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

## 5.8 Opaque Type Introduction

NetCDF-4 added support for the opaque type. This is not supported in classic or 64-bit offset files.

The opaque type is a type which is a collection of objects of a known size. (And each object is the same size). Nothing is known to netCDF about the contents of these blobs of data, except their size in bytes, and the name of the type.

To use an opaque type, first define it with [Section 5.8.1 \[NF\\_DEF\\_OPAQUE\]](#), page 61. If encountering an enum type in a new data file, use [Section 5.8.2 \[NF\\_INQ\\_OPAQUE\]](#), page 62 to learn its name and size.

### 5.8.1 Creating Opaque Types: NF\_DEF\_OPAQUE

Create an opaque type. Provide a size and a name.

#### Usage

```

    INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_OPAQUE(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
    INTEGER SIZE, INTEGER TYPEIDP)

```

NCID        The groupid where the type will be created. The type may be used anywhere in the file, no matter what group it is in.

NAME        The name for this type. Must be shorter than NF\_MAX\_NAME.

SIZE        The size of each opaque object.

TYPEIDP    Pointer where the new typeid for this type is returned. Use this typeid when defining variables of this type with [Section 6.3 \[NF\\_DEF\\_VAR\]](#), page 70.

#### Errors

NF\_NOERR    No error.

NF\_EBADTYPEID  
            Bad typeid.

NF\_EBADFIELDID  
            Bad fieldid.

NF\_EHDFERR  
            An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

#### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`.

```

C        Create the opaque type.
    retval = nf_def_opaque(ncid, opaque_size, opaque_type_name,
&    opaque_typeid)
    if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

### 5.8.2 Learn About an Opaque Type: `NF_INQ_OPAQUE`

Given a typeid, get the information about an opaque type.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_OPAQUE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
                               CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER SIZEP)
```

**NCID**        The ncid for the group containing the opaque type.

**XTYPE**      The typeid for this opaque type, as returned by `NF_DEF_COMPOUND`, or `NF_INQ_VAR`.

**NAME**        The name of the opaque type will be copied here. It will be `NF_MAX_NAME` bytes or less.

**SIZEP**      The size of the opaque type will be copied here.

#### Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADTYPEID**  
              Bad typeid.

**NF\_EBADFIELDID**  
              Bad fieldid.

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

#### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`.

```
C     Use nf_inq_opaque and make sure we get the same answers as we did
C     with nf_inq_user_type.
      retval = nf_inq_opaque(ncid, typeids(2), type_name, base_size)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 5.9 Enum Type Introduction

NetCDF-4 added support for the enum type. This is not supported in classic or 64-bit offset files.

### 5.9.1 Creating a Enum Type: `NF_DEF_ENUM`

Create an enum type. Provide an ncid, a name, and a base integer type.

After calling this function, fill out the type with repeated calls to `NF_INSERT_ENUM` (see [Section 5.9.2 \[NF\\_INSERT\\_ENUM\]](#), page 63). Call `NF_INSERT_ENUM` once for each value you wish to make part of the enumeration.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_ENUM(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER BASE_TYPEID,
    CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER TYPEIDP)
```

**NCID**        The groupid where this compound type will be created.

**BASE\_TYPEID**

The base integer type for this enum. Must be one of: `NF_BYTE`, `NF_UBYTE`, `NF_SHORT`, `NF_USHORT`, `NF_INT`, `NF_UINT`, `NF_INT64`, `NF_UINT64`.

**NAME**        The name of the new enum type.

**TYPEIDP**    The typeid of the new type will be placed here.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADID**

Bad group id.

**NF\_ENAMEINUSE**

That name is in use. Compound type names must be unique in the data file.

**NF\_EMAXNAME**

Name exceeds max length `NF_MAX_NAME`.

**NF\_EBADNAME**

Name contains illegal characters.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**

Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag `NF_NETCDF4`. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRICNC3**

This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**

An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

**NF\_EPERM**    Attempt to write to a read-only file.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**

Not in define mode.

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`.

```
C        Create the enum type.
         retval = nf_def_enum(ncid, NF_INT, enum_type_name, enum_typeid)
         if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 5.9.2 Inserting a Field into a Enum Type: `NF_INSERT_ENUM`

Insert a named member into a enum type.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INSERT_ENUM(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                CHARACTER IDENTIFIER, INTEGER VALUE)
```

**NCID**        The ncid of the group which contains the type.

**TYPEID**     The typeid for this enum type, as returned by `nf_def_enum`, or `nf_inq_var`.

**IDENTIFIER**  
              The identifier of the new member.

**VALUE**       The value that is to be associated with this member.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADID**  
              Bad group id.

**NF\_ENAMEINUSE**  
              That name is in use. Field names must be unique within a enum type.

**NF\_EMAXNAME**  
              Name exceed max length `NF_MAX_NAME`.

**NF\_EBADNAME**  
              Name contains illegal characters.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
              Attempting a netCDF-4 operation on a netCDF-3 file. NetCDF-4 operations can only be performed on files defined with a create mode which includes flag `NF_NETCDF4`. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_ESTRICTNC3**  
              This file was created with the strict netcdf-3 flag, therefore netcdf-4 operations are not allowed. (see [Section 2.8 \[NF\\_OPEN\]](#), page 13).

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**  
              Not in define mode.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`.

```
one = 1
zero = 0
retval = nf_insert_enum(ncid, enum_typeid, zero_name, zero)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
retval = nf_insert_enum(ncid, enum_typeid, one_name, one)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

### 5.9.3 Learn About a Enum Type: NF\_INQ\_ENUM

Get information about a user-defined enumeration type.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ENUM(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
                             CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER BASE_NF_TYPE, INTEGER BASE_SIZE,
                             INTEGER NUM_MEMBERS)
```

**NCID**        The group ID of the group which holds the enum type.

**XTYPE**       The typeid for this enum type, as returned by NF\_DEF\_ENUM, or NF\_INQ\_VAR.

**NAME**        Character array which will get the name. It will have a maximum length of NF\_MAX\_NAME.

**BASE\_NF\_TYPE**  
An integer which will get the base integer type of this enum.

**BASE\_SIZE**  
An integer which will get the size (in bytes) of the base integer type of this enum.

**NUM\_MEMBERS**  
An integer which will get the number of members defined for this enumeration type.

#### Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADTYPEID**  
Bad type id.

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

#### Example

In this example from nf\_test/ftst\_vars3.F, an enum type is created and then examined:

```
retval = nf_inq_enum(ncid, typeids(1), type_name, base_type,
& base_size, num_members)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
if (base_type .ne. NF_INT .or. num_members .ne. 2) stop 2
```

### 5.9.4 Learn the Name of a Enum Type: nf\_inq\_enum\_member

Get information about a member of an enum type.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ENUM_MEMBER(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
    INTEGER IDX, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER VALUE)
```

**NCID**        The groupid where this enum type exists.

**XTYPE**      The typeid for this enum type.

**IDX**        The one-based index number for the member of interest.

**NAME**       A character array which will get the name of the member. It will have a maximum length of `NF_MAX_NAME`.

**VALUE**      An integer that will get the value associated with this member.

## Errors

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADTYPEID**  
              Bad type id.

**NF\_EHDFERR**  
              An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

## Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`:

```
C     Check the members of the enum type.
      retval = nf_inq_enum_member(ncid, typeids(1), 1, member_name,
&     member_value)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (member_name(1:len(zero_name)) .ne. zero_name .or.
&     member_value .ne. 0) stop 2
      retval = nf_inq_enum_member(ncid, typeids(1), 2, member_name,
&     member_value)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (member_name(1:len(one_name)) .ne. one_name .or.
&     member_value .ne. 1) stop 2
```

### 5.9.5 Learn the Name of a Enum Type: `NF_INQ_ENUM_IDENT`

Get the name which is associated with an enum member value.

This is similar to `NF_INQ_ENUM_MEMBER`, but instead of using the index of the member, you use the value of the member.

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ENUM_IDENT(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER XTYPE,
    INTEGER VALUE, CHARACTER*(*) IDENTIFIER)
```

**NCID**        The groupid where this enum type exists.

**XTYPE**        The typeid for this enum type.

**VALUE**        The value for which an identifier is sought.

**IDENTIFIER**

A character array that will get the identifier. It will have a maximum length of `NF_MAX_NAME`.

## Return Code

**NF\_NOERR**    No error.

**NF\_EBADTYPEID**

Bad type id, or not an enum type.

**NF\_EHDFERR**

An error was reported by the HDF5 layer.

**NF\_EINVAL**

The value was not found in the enum.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars3.F`, the values for 0 and 1 are checked in an enum.

```
retval = nf_inq_enum_ident(ncid, typeids(1), 0, member_name)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
if (member_name(1:len(zero_name)) .ne. zero_name) stop 2
retval = nf_inq_enum_ident(ncid, typeids(1), 1, member_name)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
if (member_name(1:len(one_name)) .ne. one_name) stop 2
```



## 6 Variables

### 6.1 Variables Introduction

Variables for a netCDF dataset are defined when the dataset is created, while the netCDF dataset is in define mode. Other variables may be added later by reentering define mode. A netCDF variable has a name, a type, and a shape, which are specified when it is defined. A variable may also have values, which are established later in data mode.

Ordinarily, the name, type, and shape are fixed when the variable is first defined. The name may be changed, but the type and shape of a variable cannot be changed. However, a variable defined in terms of the unlimited dimension can grow without bound in that dimension.

A netCDF variable in an open netCDF dataset is referred to by a small integer called a variable ID.

Variable IDs reflect the order in which variables were defined within a netCDF dataset. Variable IDs are 1, 2, 3, ..., in the order in which the variables were defined. A function is available for getting the variable ID from the variable name and vice-versa.

Attributes (see [Chapter 7 \[Attributes\], page 119](#)) may be associated with a variable to specify such properties as units.

Operations supported on variables are:

- Create a variable, given its name, data type, and shape.
- Get a variable ID from its name.
- Get a variable's name, data type, shape, and number of attributes from its ID.
- Put a data value into a variable, given variable ID, indices, and value.
- Put an array of values into a variable, given variable ID, corner indices, edge lengths, and a block of values.
- Put a subsampled or mapped array-section of values into a variable, given variable ID, corner indices, edge lengths, stride vector, index mapping vector, and a block of values.
- Get a data value from a variable, given variable ID and indices.
- Get an array of values from a variable, given variable ID, corner indices, and edge lengths.
- Get a subsampled or mapped array-section of values from a variable, given variable ID, corner indices, edge lengths, stride vector, and index mapping vector.
- Rename a variable.

### 6.2 Language Types Corresponding to netCDF external data types

The following table gives the netCDF external data types and the corresponding type constants for defining variables in the FORTRAN interface:

Type	FORTRAN API Mnemonic	Bits
byte	NF_BYTE	8

char	NF_CHAR	8
short	NF_SHORT	16
int	NF_INT	32
float	NF_FLOAT	32
double	NF_DOUBLE	64

The first column gives the netCDF external data type, which is the same as the CDL data type. The next column gives the corresponding FORTRAN parameter for use in netCDF functions (the parameters are defined in the netCDF FORTRAN include-file netcdf.inc). The last column gives the number of bits used in the external representation of values of the corresponding type.

Note that there are no netCDF types corresponding to 64-bit integers or to characters wider than 8 bits in the current version of the netCDF library.

### 6.3 Create a Variable: NF\_DEF\_VAR

The function NF\_DEF\_VAR adds a new variable to an open netCDF dataset in define mode. It returns (as an argument) a variable ID, given the netCDF ID, the variable name, the variable type, the number of dimensions, and a list of the dimension IDs.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_DEF_VAR(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                           INTEGER XTYPE, INTEGER NVDIMS,
                           INTEGER VDIMS(*), INTEGER varid)
```

NCID	NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF_OPEN or NF_CREATE.
NAME	Variable name.
XTYPE	One of the set of predefined netCDF external data types. The type of this parameter, NF_TYPE, is defined in the netCDF header file. The valid netCDF external data types are NF_BYTE, NF_CHAR, NF_SHORT, NF_INT, NF_FLOAT, and NF_DOUBLE. If the file is a NetCDF-4/HDF5 file, the additional types NF_UBYTE, NF_USHORT, NF_UINT, NF_INT64, NF_UINT64, and NF_STRING may be used, as well as a user defined type ID.
NVDIMS	Number of dimensions for the variable. For example, 2 specifies a matrix, 1 specifies a vector, and 0 means the variable is a scalar with no dimensions. Must not be negative or greater than the predefined constant NF_MAX_VAR_DIMS.
VDIMS	Vector of ndims dimension IDs corresponding to the variable dimensions. If the ID of the unlimited dimension is included, it must be first. This argument is ignored if ndims is 0. For expanded model netCDF4/HDF5 files, there may be any number of unlimited dimensions, and they may be used in any element of the dimids array.
varid	Returned variable ID.

## Errors

NF\_DEF\_VAR returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The netCDF dataset is not in define mode.
- The specified variable name is the name of another existing variable.
- The specified type is not a valid netCDF type.
- The specified number of dimensions is negative or more than the constant NF\_MAX\_VAR\_DIMS, the maximum number of dimensions permitted for a netCDF variable.
- One or more of the dimension IDs in the list of dimensions is not a valid dimension ID for the netCDF dataset.
- The number of variables would exceed the constant NF\_MAX\_VARS, the maximum number of variables permitted in a netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_DEF\_VAR to create a variable named rh of type double with three dimensions, time, lat, and lon in a new netCDF dataset named foo.nc:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER LATDIM, LONDIM, TIMDIM ! dimension IDs
INTEGER RHID ! variable ID
INTEGER RHDIMS(3) ! variable shape
...
STATUS = NF_CREATE ('foo.nc', NF_NOCLOBBER, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
                                ! define dimensions
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, 'lat', 5, LATDIM)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, 'lon', 10, LONDIM)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, 'time', NF_UNLIMITED, TIMDIM)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
                                ! define variable
RHDIMS(1) = LONDIM
RHDIMS(2) = LATDIM
RHDIMS(3) = TIMDIM
STATUS = NF_DEF_VAR (NCID, 'rh', NF_DOUBLE, 3, RHDIMS, RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.4 Define Chunking Parameters for a Variable: `NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING`

The function `NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING` sets the storage parameters for a variable in a netCDF-4 file. It can set the chunk sizes to get chunked storage, or it can set the contiguous flag to get contiguous storage.

Variables that make use of one or more unlimited dimensions, compression, or checksums must use chunking. Such variables are created with default chunk sizes of 1 for each unlimited dimension and the dimension length for other dimensions, except that if the resulting chunks are too large, the default chunk sizes for non-record dimensions are reduced.

The total size of a chunk must be less than 4 GiB. That is, the product of all chunk sizes and the size of the data (or the size of `nc_vlen_t` for `VLEN` types) must be less than 4 GiB.

This function may only be called after the variable is defined, but before `nc_enddef` is called. Once the chunking parameters are set for a variable, they cannot be changed. This function can be used to change the default chunking for record, compressed, or checksummed variables before `nc_enddef` is called.

Note that you cannot set chunking for scalar variables. Only non-scalar variables can have chunking.

### Usage

```
NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER STORAGE, INTEGER CHUNKSIZES)
```

**ncid** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**varid** Variable ID.

**storage** If `NF_CONTIGUOUS`, then contiguous storage is used for this variable. Variables with compression, shuffle filter, checksums, or one or more unlimited dimensions cannot use contiguous storage. If contiguous storage is turned on, the `chunksizes` parameter is ignored.

If `NF_CHUNKED`, then chunked storage is used for this variable. Chunk sizes may be specified with the `chunksizes` parameter. Default sizes will be used if chunking is required and this function is not called.

By default contiguous storage is used for fix-sized variables when compression, chunking, checksums, or endianness control are not used.

**chunksizes**

An array of chunk sizes. The array must have the one chunksize for each dimension in the variable. If contiguous storage is used, then the `chunksizes` parameter is ignored.

### Errors

`NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_BADID` Bad `ncid`.

**NF\_EINVAL**

Invalid input. This can occur when the user attempts to set contiguous storage for a variable with compression or checksums, or one or more unlimited dimensions.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**

Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**

Can't find this variable.

**NF\_ELATEDEF**

This variable has already been the subject of a `NF_ENDDEF` call. In netCDF-4 files `NF_ENDDEF` will be called automatically for any data read or write. Once `enddef` has been called, it is impossible to set the chunking for a variable.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**

Not in define mode. This is returned for netCDF classic or 64-bit offset files, or for netCDF-4 files, when they were been created with `NF_STRICT_NC3` flag. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), page 9).

**NF ESTRICTNC3**

Trying to create a var some place other than the root group in a netCDF file with `NF_STRICT_NC3` turned on.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars.F`, a file is created, two dimensions and a variable are defined, and the chunk sizes of the data are set to the size of the data (that is, data will be written in one chunk).

```

C      Create the netCDF file.
      retval = nf_create(FILE_NAME, NF_NETCDF4, ncid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the dimensions.
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "x", NX, x_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "y", NY, y_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the variable.
      dimids(1) = y_dimid
      dimids(2) = x_dimid
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR(ncid, "data", NF_INT, NDIMS, dimids, varid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Turn on chunking.
      chunks(1) = NY
      chunks(2) = NX
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR_chunking(ncid, varid, NF_CHUNKED, chunks)

```

```
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
```

## 6.5 Learn About Chunking Parameters for a Variable: NF\_INQ\_VAR\_CHUNKING

The function NF\_INQ\_VAR\_CHUNKING returns the chunking settings for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

### Usage

```
NF_INQ_VAR_CHUNKING(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER STORAGE, INTEGER CHUNKSIZES);
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF\_OPEN or NF\_CREATE.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**STORAGE** On return, set to NF\_CONTIGUOUS if this variable uses contiguous storage, NF\_CHUNKED if it uses chunked storage.

**CHUNKSIZES**

An array of chunk sizes. The length of CHUNKSIZES must be the same as the number of dimensions of the variable.

### Errors

NF\_INQ\_VAR\_CHUNKING returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad ncid.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**  
Can't find this variable.

### Example

In this example from nf\_test/ftst\_vars.F, a variable with chunked storage is checked to ensure that the chunksizes are set to expected values.

```
C      Is everything set that is supposed to be?
      retval = nf_inq_var_chunking(ncid, varid, storage, chunks_in)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (storage .ne. NF_CHUNKED) stop 2
      if (chunks(1) .ne. chunks_in(1)) stop 2
      if (chunks(2) .ne. chunks_in(2)) stop 2
```

## 6.6 Set HDF5 Chunk Cache for a Variable: NF\_SET\_VAR\_CHUNK\_CACHE

This function changes the chunk cache settings for a variable. The change in cache size happens immediately. This is a property of the open file - it does not persist the next time you open the file.

For more information, see the documentation for the `H5Pset_cache()` function in the HDF5 library at the HDF5 website: <http://hdfgroup.org/HDF5/>.

### Usage

```
nc_set_var_chunk_cache(int ncid, int varid, size_t size, size_t nelems,
                      float preemption);
```

`ncid` NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `nc_open` or `nc_create`.

`varid` Variable ID.

`size` The total size of the raw data chunk cache, in megabytes. This should be big enough to hold multiple chunks of data. (Note that the C API uses bytes, but the Fortran APIs uses megabytes to avoid numbers that can't fit in 4-byte integers.)

`nelems` The number of chunk slots in the raw data chunk cache hash table. This should be a prime number larger than the number of chunks that will be in the cache.

`preemption`

The preemption value must be between 0 and 100 inclusive and indicates how much chunks that have been fully read are favored for preemption. A value of zero means fully read chunks are treated no differently than other chunks (the preemption is strictly LRU) while a value of 100 means fully read chunks are always preempted before other chunks. (The C API uses a float between 0 and 1 for this value).

### Return Codes

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_EINVAL`

Preemption must be between zero and 100 (inclusive).

### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars2.F`:

```
include 'netcdf.inc'
...
C   These will be used to set the per-variable chunk cache.
integer CACHE_SIZE, CACHE_NELEMS, CACHE_PREEMPTION
parameter (CACHE_SIZE = 8, CACHE_NELEMS = 571)
parameter (CACHE_PREEMPTION = 42)
...
C   Set variable caches.
```

```

        retval = nf_set_var_chunk_cache(ncid, varid(i), CACHE_SIZE,
&          CACHE_NELEMS, CACHE_PREEMPTION)
        if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

## 6.7 Get the HDF5 Chunk Cache Settings for a variable: NF\_GET\_VAR\_CHUNK\_CACHE

This function gets the current chunk cache settings for a variable in a netCDF-4/HDF5 file.

For more information, see the documentation for the `H5Pget_cache()` function in the HDF5 library at the HDF5 website: <http://hdfgroup.org/HDF5/>.

### Usage

```

INTEGER NF_GET_VAR_CHUNK_CACHE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER SIZE, INTEGER NELEMS,
                               INTEGER PREEMPTION);

```

`ncid` NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

`varid` Variable ID.

`sizep` The total size of the raw data chunk cache, in megabytes, will be put here.

`nelemsp` The number of chunk slots in the raw data chunk cache hash table will be put here.

`preemptionp`

The preemption will be put here. The preemption value is between 0 and 100 inclusive and indicates how much chunks that have been fully read are favored for preemption. A value of zero means fully read chunks are treated no differently than other chunks (the preemption is strictly LRU) while a value of 100 means fully read chunks are always preempted before other chunks.

### Return Codes

`NC_NOERR` No error.

### Example

This example is from `nf_test/ftst_vars2.c`:

```

        include 'netcdf.inc'
        ...
C       These will be used to set the per-variable chunk cache.
        integer CACHE_SIZE, CACHE_NELEMS, CACHE_PREEMPTION
        parameter (CACHE_SIZE = 8, CACHE_NELEMS = 571)
        parameter (CACHE_PREEMPTION = 42)

C       These will be used to check the setting of the per-variable chunk
C       cache.
        integer cache_size_in, cache_nelems_in, cache_preemption_in

```

```

...
    retval = nf_get_var_chunk_cache(ncid, varid(i), cache_size_in,
&      cache_nelems_in, cache_preemption_in)
    if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
    if (cache_size_in .ne. CACHE_SIZE .or. cache_nelems_in .ne.
&      CACHE_NELEMS .or. cache_preemption .ne. CACHE_PREEMPTION)
&      stop 8

```

## 6.8 Define Fill Parameters for a Variable: `nf_def_var_fill`

The function `NF_DEF_VAR_FILL` sets the fill parameters for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

This function must be called after the variable is defined, but before `NF_ENDDEF` is called.

### Usage

```
NF_DEF_VAR_FILL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER NO_FILL, FILL_VALUE);
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**NO\_FILL** Set to non-zero value to set `no_fill` mode on a variable. When this mode is on, fill values will not be written for the variable. This is helpful in high performance applications. For netCDF-4/HDF5 files (whether classic model or not), this may only be changed after the variable is defined, but before it is committed to disk (i.e. before the first `NF_ENDDEF` after the `NF_DEF_VAR`.) For classic and 64-bit offset file, the `no_fill` mode may be turned on and off at any time.

**FILL\_VALUE**

A value which will be used as the fill value for the variable. Must be the same type as the variable. This will be written to a `_FillValue` attribute, created for this purpose. If `NULL`, this argument will be ignored.

### Return Codes

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad `ncid`.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**  
Can't find this variable.

**NF\_ELATEDEF**  
This variable has already been the subject of a `NF_ENDDEF` call. In netCDF-4 files `NF_ENDDEF` will be called automatically for any data read or write. Once `enddef` has been called, it is impossible to set the fill for a variable.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**

Not in define mode. This is returned for netCDF classic or 64-bit offset files, or for netCDF-4 files, when they were been created with `NF_STRICT_NC3` flag. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), page 9).

**NF\_EPERM** Attempt to create object in read-only file.

**Example****6.9 Learn About Fill Parameters for a Variable: NF\_INQ\_VAR\_FILL**

The function `NF_INQ_VAR_FILL` returns the fill settings for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

**Usage**

```
NF_INQ_VAR_FILL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER NO_FILL, FILL_VALUE)
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**NO\_FILL** An integer which will get a 1 if no\_fill mode is set for this variable, and a zero if it is not set

**FILL\_VALUE**

This will get the fill value for this variable. This parameter will be ignored if it is NULL.

**Return Codes**

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad ncid.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**  
Can't find this variable.

**Example****6.10 Define Compression Parameters for a Variable: NF\_DEF\_VAR\_DEFLATE**

The function `NF_DEF_VAR_DEFLATE` sets the deflate parameters for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

When using parallel I/O for writing data, deflate cannot be used. This is because the compression makes it impossible for the HDF5 library to exactly map the data to disk location.

(Deflated data can be read with parallel I/O).

`NF_DEF_VAR_DEFLATE` must be called after the variable is defined, but before `NF_ENDDEF` is called.

## Usage

```
NF_DEF_VAR_DEFLATE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER SHUFFLE, INTEGER DEFLATE,
                   INTEGER DEFLATE_LEVEL);
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**SHUFFLE** If non-zero, turn on the shuffle filter.

**DEFLATE** If non-zero, turn on the deflate filter at the level specified by the `deflate_level` parameter.

**DEFLATE\_LEVEL**

Must be between 0 (no deflate, the default) and 9 (slowest, but “best” deflate). If set to zero, no deflation takes place and the `def_var_deflate` call is ignored. This is slightly different from HDF5 handling of 0 deflate, which turns on the filter but makes only trivial changes to the data.

Informal testing at NetCDF World Headquarters suggests that there is little to be gained (with the limited set of test data used here), in setting the deflate level above 2 or 3.

## Errors

`NF_DEF_VAR_DEFLATE` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad `ncid`.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**  
Can’t find this variable.

**NF\_ELATEDEF**  
This variable has already been the subject of a `NF_ENDDEF` call. In netCDF-4 files `NF_ENDDEF` will be called automatically for any data read or write. Once `enddef` has been called, it is impossible to set the deflate for a variable.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**  
Not in define mode. This is returned for netCDF classic or 64-bit offset files, or for netCDF-4 files, when they were been created with `NF_STRICT_NC3` flag. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), page 9).

**NF\_EPERM** Attempt to create object in read-only file.

**NF\_EINVAL**  
Invalid `deflate_level`. The deflate level must be between 0 and 9, inclusive.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars.F`, a file is created with two dimensions and one variable. Chunking, deflate, and the fletcher32 filter are turned on. The deflate level is set to 4 below.

```

C      Create the netCDF file.
      retval = nf_create(FILE_NAME, NF_NETCDF4, ncid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the dimensions.
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "x", NX, x_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "y", NY, y_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the variable.
      dimids(1) = y_dimid
      dimids(2) = x_dimid
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR(ncid, "data", NF_INT, NDIMS, dimids, varid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Turn on chunking.
      chunks(1) = NY
      chunks(2) = NX
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING(ncid, varid, NF_CHUNKED, chunks)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Turn on deflate compression, fletcher32 checksum.
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR_deflate(ncid, varid, 0, 1, 4)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR_FLETCHER32(ncid, varid, NF_FLETCHER32)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

## 6.11 Learn About Deflate Parameters for a Variable: NF\_INQ\_VAR\_DEFLATE

The function `NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE` returns the deflate settings for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

It is not necessary to know the deflate settings to read the variable. (Deflate is completely transparent to readers of the data).

### Usage

```

NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER SHUFFLE,
                  INTEGER DEFLATE, INTEGER DEFLATE_LEVEL);

```

**NCID**        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**SHUFFLE** `NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE` will set this to a 1 if the shuffle filter is turned on for this variable, and a 0 otherwise.

**DEFLATE** `NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE` will set this to a 1 if the deflate filter is turned on for this variable, and a 0 otherwise.

**DEFLATE\_LEVEL**  
`NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE` function will write the `deflate_level` here, if deflate is in use.

## Errors

`NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad `ncid`.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
 Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**  
 Can't find this variable.

## Example

In this example code from `nf_test/ftst_vars.F`, a file with a variable using deflate is opened, and the deflate level checked.

```

C      Is everything set that is supposed to be?
      retval = nf_inq_var_deflate(ncid, varid, shuffle, deflate,
+      deflate_level)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      if (shuffle .ne. 0 .or. deflate .ne. 1 .or.
+      deflate_level .ne. 4) stop 2

```

## 6.12 Learn About Szip Parameters for a Variable: `NF_INQ_VAR_SZIP`

The function `NF_INQ_VAR_SZIP` returns the szip settings for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

It is not necessary to know the szip settings to read the variable. (Szip is completely transparent to readers of the data).

## Usage

```
NF_INQ_VAR_SZIP(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER OPTION_MASK,
                PIXELS_PER_BLOCK);
```

NCID NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

VARID Variable ID.

OPTION\_MASK  
This will be set to the `option_mask` value.

PIXELS\_PER\_BLOCK  
The number of bits per pixel will be put here.

## Errors

`NF_INQ_VAR_SZIP` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_BADID` Bad `ncid`.

`NF_ENOTNC4`  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

`NF_ENOTVAR`  
Can't find this variable.

## Example

### 6.13 Define Checksum Parameters for a Variable: `NF_DEF_VAR_FLETCHER32`

The function `NF_DEF_VAR_FLETCHER32` sets the checksum property for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

This function may only be called after the variable is defined, but before `NF_ENDDEF` is called.

## Usage

```
NF_DEF_VAR_FLETCHER32(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER CHECKSUM);
```

NCID NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

VARID Variable ID.

CHECKSUM If this is `NF_FLETCHER32`, `fletcher32` checksums will be turned on for this variable.

## Errors

NF\_DEF\_VAR\_FLETCHER32 returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_BADID Bad ncid.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

NF\_ENOTVAR  
Can't find this variable.

NF\_ELATEDEF  
This variable has already been the subject of a NF\_ENDDEF call. In netCDF-4 files NF\_ENDDEF will be called automatically for any data read or write. Once enddef has been called, it is impossible to set the checksum property for a variable.

NF\_ENOTINDEFINE  
Not in define mode. This is returned for netCDF classic or 64-bit offset files, or for netCDF-4 files, when they were been created with NF\_STRICT\_NC3 flag. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), page 9).

NF\_EPERM Attempt to create object in read-only file.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars.F`, the variable in a file has the Fletcher32 checksum filter turned on.

```

C      Create the netCDF file.
      retval = nf_create(FILE_NAME, NF_NETCDF4, ncid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the dimensions.
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "x", NX, x_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "y", NY, y_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the variable.
      dimids(1) = y_dimid
      dimids(2) = x_dimid
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR(ncid, "data", NF_INT, NDIMS, dimids, varid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Turn on chunking.
```

```

chunks(1) = NY
chunks(2) = NX
retval = NF_DEF_VAR_CHUNKING(ncid, varid, NF_CHUNKED, chunks)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

```

C Turn on deflate compression, fletcher32 checksums.
retval = NF_DEF_VAR_DEFLATE(ncid, varid, 0, 1, 4)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
retval = NF_DEF_VAR_FLETCHER32(ncid, varid, NF_FLETCHER32)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

## 6.14 Learn About Checksum Parameters for a Variable: NF\_INQ\_VAR\_FLETCHER32

The function NF\_INQ\_VAR\_FLETCHER32 returns the checksum settings for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

### Usage

```
NF_INQ_VAR_FLETCHER32(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER CHECKSUM);
```

NCID NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF\_OPEN or NF\_CREATE.

VARID Variable ID.

CHECKSUM NF\_INQ\_VAR\_FLETCHER32 will set this to NF\_FLETCHER32 if the fletcher32 filter is turned on for this variable, and NF\_NOCHECKSUM if it is not.

### Errors

NF\_INQ\_VAR\_FLETCHER32 returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

NF\_NOERR No error.

NF\_BADID Bad ncid.

NF\_ENOTNC4  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

NF\_ENOTVAR  
Can't find this variable.

### Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars.F` the checksum filter is checked for a file. Since it was turned on for this variable, the checksum variable is set to NF\_FLETCHER32.

```

retval = nf_inq_var_fletcher32(ncid, varid, checksum)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
if (checksum .ne. NF_FLETCHER32) stop 2

```

## 6.15 Define Endianness of a Variable: `NF_DEF_VAR_ENDIAN`

The function `NF_DEF_VAR_ENDIAN` sets the endianness for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

This function must be called after the variable is defined, but before `NF_ENDDEF` is called.

By default, netCDF-4 variables are in native endianness. That is, they are big-endian on a big-endian machine, and little-endian on a little endian machine.

In some cases a user might wish to change from native endianness to either big or little-endianness. This function allows them to do that.

### Usage

```
NF_DEF_VAR_ENDIAN(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER ENDIAN)
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**ENDIAN** Set to `NF_ENDIAN_NATIVE` for native endianness. (This is the default). Set to `NF_ENDIAN_LITTLE` for little endian, or `NF_ENDIAN_BIG` for big endian.

### Errors

`NF_DEF_VAR_ENDIAN` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

**NF\_NOERR** No error.

**NF\_BADID** Bad ncid.

**NF\_ENOTNC4**  
Not a netCDF-4 file.

**NF\_ENOTVAR**  
Can't find this variable.

**NF\_ELATEDEF**  
This variable has already been the subject of a `NF_ENDDEF` call. In netCDF-4 files `NF_ENDDEF` will be called automatically for any data read or write. Once `enddef` has been called, it is impossible to set the endianness of a variable.

**NF\_ENOTINDEFINE**  
Not in define mode. This is returned for netCDF classic or 64-bit offset files, or for netCDF-4 files, when they were been created with `NF_STRICT_NC3` flag, and the file is not in define mode. (see [Section 2.5 \[NF\\_CREATE\]](#), page 9).

**NF\_EPERM** Attempt to create object in read-only file.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars.c`, a file is created with one variable, and its endianness is set to `NF_ENDIAN_BIG`.

```

C      Create the netCDF file.
      retval = nf_create(FILE_NAME, NF_NETCDF4, ncid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the dimensions.
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "x", NX, x_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
      retval = nf_def_dim(ncid, "y", NY, y_dimid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Define the variable.
      dimids(1) = y_dimid
      dimids(2) = x_dimid
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR(ncid, "data", NF_INT, NDIMS, dimids, varid)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Turn on chunking.
      chunks(1) = NY
      chunks(2) = NX
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR_chunking(ncid, varid, 0, chunks)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

C      Set variable to big-endian (default is whatever is native to
C      writing machine).
      retval = NF_DEF_VAR_endian(ncid, varid, NF_ENDIAN_BIG)
      if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)

```

## 6.16 Learn About Endian Parameters for a Variable: `NF_INQ_VAR_ENDIAN`

The function `NF_INQ_VAR_ENDIAN` returns the endianness settings for a variable in a netCDF-4 file.

### Usage

```
NF_INQ_VAR_ENDIAN(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER ENDIAN)
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**ENDIAN** `NF_INQ_VAR_ENDIAN` will set this to `NF_ENDIAN_LITTLE` if this variable is stored in little-endian format, `NF_ENDIAN_BIG` if it is stored in big-endian format, and `NF_ENDIAN_NATIVE` if the endianness is not set, and the variable is not created yet.

## Errors

NF\_INQ\_VAR\_ENDIAN returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error.

Possible return codes include:

NF_NOERR	No error.
NF_BADID	Bad ncid.
NF_ENOTNC4	Not a netCDF-4 file.
NF_ENOTVAR	Can't find this variable.

## Example

In this example from `nf_test/ftst_vars.F`, the endianness of a variable is checked to make sure it is `NF_ENDIAN_BIG`.

```
retval = nf_inq_var_endian(ncid, varid, endianness)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) call handle_err(retval)
if (endianness .ne. NF_ENDIAN_BIG) stop 2
```

## 6.17 Get a Variable ID from Its Name: NF\_INQ\_VARID

The function `NF_INQ_VARID` returns the ID of a netCDF variable, given its name.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARID(INTEGER NCID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                              INTEGER varid)
```

NCID	NetCDF ID, from a previous call to <code>NF_OPEN</code> or <code>NF_CREATE</code> .
NAME	Variable name for which ID is desired.
varid	Returned variable ID.

### Errors

`NF_INQ_VARID` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified variable name is not a valid name for a variable in the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

### Example

Here is an example using `NF_INQ_VARID` to find out the ID of a variable named `rh` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID, RHID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.18 Get Information about a Variable from Its ID: NF\_INQ\_VAR family

A family of functions that returns information about a netCDF variable, given its ID. Information about a variable includes its name, type, number of dimensions, a list of dimension IDs describing the shape of the variable, and the number of variable attributes that have been assigned to the variable.

The function NF\_INQ\_VAR returns all the information about a netCDF variable, given its ID. The other functions each return just one item of information about a variable.

These other functions include NF\_INQ\_VARNAME, NF\_INQ\_VARTYPE, NF\_INQ\_VARNDIMS, NF\_INQ\_VARDIMID, and NF\_INQ\_VARNATTS.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VAR      (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) name, INTEGER xtype,
                                INTEGER ndims, INTEGER dimids(*),
                                INTEGER natts)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARNAME (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) name)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARTYPE (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER xtype)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARNDIMS (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER ndims)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARDIMID (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER dimids(*))

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_VARNATTS (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER natts)

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF\_OPEN or NF\_CREATE.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**NAME** Returned variable name. The caller must allocate space for the returned name. The maximum possible length, in characters, of a variable name is given by the predefined constant NF\_MAX\_NAME.

**xtype** Returned variable type, one of the set of predefined netCDF external data types. The type of this parameter, NF\_TYPE, is defined in the netCDF header file.

The valid netCDF external data types are `NF_BYTE`, `NF_CHAR`, `NF_SHORT`, `NF_INT`, `NF_FLOAT`, AND `NF_DOUBLE`.

<b>ndims</b>	Returned number of dimensions the variable was defined as using. For example, 2 indicates a matrix, 1 indicates a vector, and 0 means the variable is a scalar with no dimensions.
<b>dimids</b>	Returned vector of *ndimsp dimension IDs corresponding to the variable dimensions. The caller must allocate enough space for a vector of at least *ndimsp integers to be returned. The maximum possible number of dimensions for a variable is given by the predefined constant <code>NF_MAX_VAR_DIMS</code> .
<b>natts</b>	Returned number of variable attributes assigned to this variable.

These functions return the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_INQ_VAR` to find out about a variable named `rh` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID           ! variable ID
CHARACTER*31 RHNAME    ! variable name
INTEGER RHTYPE         ! variable type
INTEGER RHN            ! number of dimensions
INTEGER RHDIMS(NF_MAX_VAR_DIMS) ! variable shape
INTEGER RHNATT         ! number of attributes
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID) ! get ID
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_VAR (NCID, RHID, RHNAME, RHTYPE, RHN, RHDIMS, RHNATT)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

### 6.19 Write a Single Data Value: `NF_PUT_VAR1_` type

The functions `NF_PUT_VAR1_` type put a single data value of the specified type into a variable of an open netCDF dataset that is in data mode. Inputs are the netCDF ID, the variable ID, an index that specifies which value to add or alter, and the data value. The value is converted to the external data type of the variable, if necessary.

Take care when using the simplest forms of this interface with record variables when you don't specify how many records are to be read. If you try to read all the values of a record

variable into an array but there are more records in the file than you assume, more data will be read than you expect, which may cause a segmentation violation.

## Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1_TEXT(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER INDEX(*), CHARACTER CHVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1_INT1(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER INDEX(*), INTEGER*1 I1VAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1_INT2(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER INDEX(*), INTEGER*2 I2VAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER INDEX(*), INTEGER  IVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1_REAL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER INDEX(*), REAL      RVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                     INTEGER INDEX(*), DOUBLE   DVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR1(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                              INTEGER INDEX(*), *)

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**INDEX** The index of the data value to be written. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a two-dimensional variable would have index (1,1). The elements of index must correspond to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable uses the unlimited dimension, the last index would correspond to the record number.

**CHVAL**

**I1VAL**

**I2VAL**

**IVAL**

**RVAL**

**DVAL** Pointer to the data value to be written. If the type of data values differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur. See [Section "Type Conversion" in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

## Errors

`NF_PUT_VAR1_` type returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified indices were out of range for the rank of the specified variable. For example, a negative index or an index that is larger than the corresponding dimension length will cause an error.
- The specified value is out of the range of values representable by the external data type of the variable.

- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_PUT_VAR1_DOUBLE` to set the (4,3,2) element of the variable named `rh` to 0.5 in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that `rh` is dimensioned with `lon`, `lat`, and `time`, so we want to set the value of `rh` that corresponds to the fourth `lon` value, the third `lat` value, and the second `time` value:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS           ! error status
INTEGER NCID
INTEGER RHID             ! variable ID
INTEGER RHINDX(3)       ! where to put value
DATA RHINDX /4, 3, 2/
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID) ! get ID
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_PUT_VAR1_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, RHINDX, 0.5)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.20 Write an Entire Variable: `NF_PUT_VAR_` type

The `NF_PUT_VAR_` type family of functions write all the values of a variable into a netCDF variable of an open netCDF dataset. This is the simplest interface to use for writing a value in a scalar variable or whenever all the values of a multidimensional variable can all be written at once. The values to be written are associated with the netCDF variable by assuming that the last dimension of the netCDF variable varies fastest in the C interface. The values are converted to the external data type of the variable, if necessary.

Take care when using the simplest forms of this interface with record variables when you don't specify how many records are to be written. If you try to write all the values of a record variable into a netCDF file that has no record data yet (hence has 0 records), nothing will be written. Similarly, if you try to write all of a record variable but there are more records in the file than you assume, more data may be written to the file than you supply, which may result in a segmentation violation.

## Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
CHARACTER*(*) TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
INTEGER*1 I1VALS(*))

```

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
    INTEGER*2 I2VALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
    INTEGER IVALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_REAL (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
    REAL RVALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_DOUBLE (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
    DOUBLE DVALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
    VALS(*))

```

NCID NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

VARID Variable ID.

TEXT

I1VALS

I2VALS

IVALS

RVALS

DVALS

VALS

The block of data values to be written. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot put CHARACTER data into a numeric variable or numeric data into a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see [Section “Type Conversion” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#)). The order in which the data will be written into the specified variable is with the first dimension varying fastest (like the ordinary FORTRAN convention).

## Errors

Members of the `NF_PUT_VAR_` type family return the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- One or more of the specified values are out of the range of values representable by the external data type of the variable.
- One or more of the specified values are out of the range of values representable by the external data type of the variable.
- The specified netCDF dataset is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_PUT_VAR_DOUBLE` to add or change all the values of the variable named `rh` to 0.5 in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that `rh` is dimensioned with `lon`, `lat`, and `time`, and that there are ten `lon` values, five `lat` values, and three `time` values.



		DOUBLE DVALS(*))
	INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA	(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*), VALS(*))
NCID	NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF_OPEN or NF_CREATE.	
VARID	Variable ID.	
START	A vector of integers specifying the index in the variable where the first of the data values will be written. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a variable would have index (1, 1, ..., 1). The length of START must be the same as the number of dimensions of the specified variable. The elements of START must correspond to the variable's dimensions in order. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index would correspond to the starting record number for writing the data values.	
COUNT	A vector of integers specifying the edge lengths along each dimension of the block of data values to written. To write a single value, for example, specify COUNT as (1, 1, ..., 1). The length of COUNT is the number of dimensions of the specified variable. The elements of COUNT correspond to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last element of COUNT corresponds to a count of the number of records to write.  Note: setting any element of the count array to zero causes the function to exit without error, and without doing anything.	
TEXT		
I1VALS		
I2VALS		
IVALS		
RVALS		
DVALS		
VALS	The block of data values to be written. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot put CHARACTER data into a numeric variable or numeric data into a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see <a href="#">Section "Type Conversion" in <i>The NetCDF Users Guide</i></a> ).	

## Errors

NF\_PUT\_VARA\_ *type* returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified corner indices were out of range for the rank of the specified variable. For example, a negative index, or an index that is larger than the corresponding dimension length will cause an error.
- The specified edge lengths added to the specified corner would have referenced data out of range for the rank of the specified variable. For example, an edge length that is larger than the corresponding dimension length minus the corner index will cause an error.

- One or more of the specified values are out of the range of values representable by the external data type of the variable.
- The specified netCDF dataset is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_PUT_VARA_DOUBLE` to add or change all the values of the variable named `rh` to 0.5 in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that `rh` is dimensioned with time, lat, and lon, and that there are three time values, five lat values, and ten lon values.

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIMS=3)           ! number of dimensions
PARAMETER (TIMES=3, LATS=5, LONS=10) ! dimension lengths
INTEGER  STATUS, NCID, TIMES
INTEGER  RHID                 ! variable ID
INTEGER  START(NDIMS), COUNT(NDIMS)
DOUBLE  RHVALS(LONS, LATS, TIMES)
DATA START /1, 1, 1/         ! start at first value
DATA COUNT /LONS, LATS, TIMES/
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
DO 10 ILO = 1, LONS
  DO 10 ILAT = 1, LATS
    DO 10 ITIME = 1, TIMES
      RHVALS(ILO, ILAT, ITIME) = 0.5
10 CONTINUE
STATUS = NF_PUT_VARA_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, START, COUNT, RHVALS)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.22 NF\_PUT\_VARS\_ type

Each member of the family of functions `NF_PUT_VARS_ type` writes a subsampled (strided) array section of values into a netCDF variable of an open netCDF dataset. The subsampled array section is specified by giving a corner, a vector of counts, and a stride vector. The netCDF dataset must be in data mode.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                  INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                  INTEGER STRIDE(*), CHARACTER*(*) TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,

```

```

                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*),INTEGER*1 I1VALS(*)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*),INTEGER*2 I2VALS(*)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_INT  (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IVALS(*)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_REAL (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), REAL RVALS(*)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), DOUBLE DVALS(*)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS      (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), VALS(*))

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**START** A vector of integers specifying the index in the variable where the first of the data values will be written. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a variable would have index (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of `START` correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index would correspond to the starting record number for writing the data values.

**COUNT** A vector of integers specifying the number of indices selected along each dimension. To write a single value, for example, specify `COUNT` as (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of `COUNT` correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last element of `COUNT` corresponds to a count of the number of records to write.

Note: setting any element of the count array to zero causes the function to exit without error, and without doing anything.

**STRIDE** A vector of integers that specifies the sampling interval along each dimension of the netCDF variable. The elements of the stride vector correspond, in order, to the netCDF variable's dimensions (`STRIDE(1)` gives the sampling interval along the most rapidly varying dimension of the netCDF variable). Sampling intervals are specified in type-independent units of elements (a value of 1 selects consecutive elements of the netCDF variable along the corresponding dimension, a value of 2 selects every other element, etc.).

TEXT  
 I1VALS  
 I2VALS  
 IVALS  
 RVALS  
 DVALS  
 VALS        The block of data values to be written. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot put CHARACTER data into a numeric variable or numeric data into a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see Section “Type Conversion” in *The NetCDF Users Guide*).

## Errors

NF\_PUT\_VARS\_ *type* returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified start, count and stride generate an index which is out of range.
- One or more of the specified values are out of the range of values representable by the external data type of the variable.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example of using NF\_PUT\_VARS\_REAL to write – from an internal array – every other point of a netCDF variable named rh which is described by the FORTRAN declaration REAL RH(6,4) (note the size of the dimensions):

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIM=2)    ! rank of netCDF variable
INTEGER NCID         ! netCDF dataset ID
INTEGER STATUS       ! return code
INTEGER RHID        ! variable ID
INTEGER START(NDIM) ! netCDF variable start point
INTEGER COUNT(NDIM) ! size of internal array
INTEGER STRIDE(NDIM) ! netCDF variable subsampling intervals
REAL RH(3,2)        ! note subsampled sizes for netCDF variable
                    ! dimensions
DATA START  /1, 1/  ! start at first netCDF variable value
DATA COUNT  /3, 2/  ! size of internal array: entire (subsampled)
                    ! netCDF variable
DATA STRIDE /2, 2/  ! access every other netCDF element
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

```

...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID(NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_PUT_VARS_REAL(NCID, RHID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, RH)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.23 NF\_PUT\_VARM\_ *type*

The `NF_PUT_VARM_` *type* family of functions writes a mapped array section of values into a netCDF variable of an open netCDF dataset. The mapped array section is specified by giving a corner, a vector of counts, a stride vector, and an index mapping vector. The index mapping vector is a vector of integers that specifies the mapping between the dimensions of a netCDF variable and the in-memory structure of the internal data array. No assumptions are made about the ordering or length of the dimensions of the data array. The netCDF dataset must be in data mode.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARM_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
                                CHARACTER*(*) TEXT)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARM_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
                                INTEGER*1 I1VALS(*))

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARM_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
                                INTEGER*2 I2VALS(*))

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARM_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
                                INTEGER IVALS(*))

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARM_REAL (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
                                REAL RVALS(*))

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARM_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
                                DOUBLE DVALS(*))

```

NCID        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

VARID      Variable ID.

**START** A vector of integers specifying the index in the variable where the first of the data values will be written. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a variable would have index (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of **START** correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index would correspond to the starting record number for writing the data values.

**COUNT** A vector of integers specifying the number of indices selected along each dimension. To write a single value, for example, specify **COUNT** as (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of **COUNT** correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last element of **COUNT** corresponds to a count of the number of records to write.

Note: setting any element of the count array to zero causes the function to exit without error, and without doing anything.

**STRIDE** A vector of integers that specifies the sampling interval along each dimension of the netCDF variable. The elements of the stride vector correspond, in order, to the netCDF variable's dimensions (**STRIDE**(1) gives the sampling interval along the most rapidly varying dimension of the netCDF variable). Sampling intervals are specified in type-independent units of elements (a value of 1 selects consecutive elements of the netCDF variable along the corresponding dimension, a value of 2 selects every other element, etc.).

**IMAP** A vector of integers that specifies the mapping between the dimensions of a netCDF variable and the in-memory structure of the internal data array. The elements of the index mapping vector correspond, in order, to the netCDF variable's dimensions (**IMAP**(1) gives the distance between elements of the internal array corresponding to the most rapidly varying dimension of the netCDF variable). Distances between elements are specified in units of elements (the distance between internal elements that occupy adjacent memory locations is 1 and not the element's byte-length as in netCDF 2).

**TEXT**

**I1VALS**

**I2VALS**

**IVALS**

**RVALS**

**DVALS** The data values to be written. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot put **CHARACTER** data into a numeric variable or numeric data into a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see [Section "Type Conversion" in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#)).

## Errors

**NF\_PUT\_VARM\_** *type* returns the value **NF\_NOERR** if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.

- The specified `START`, `COUNT`, and `STRIDE` generate an index which is out of range. Note that no error checking is possible on the `imap` vector.
- One or more of the specified values are out of the range of values representable by the external data type of the variable.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

The following `IMAP` vector maps in the trivial way a 2x3x4 netCDF variable and an internal array of the same shape:

```

REAL A(2,3,4)      ! same shape as netCDF variable
INTEGER IMAP(3)
DATA IMAP /1, 2, 6/ ! netCDF dimension      inter-element distance
                   ! -----
                   ! most rapidly varying    1
                   ! intermediate            2 (=IMAP(1)*2)
                   ! most slowly varying     6 (=IMAP(2)*3)

```

Using the `IMAP` vector above with `NF_PUT_VARM_REAL` obtains the same result as simply using `NF_PUT_VAR_REAL`.

Here is an example of using `NF_PUT_VARM_REAL` to write – from a transposed, internal array – a netCDF variable named `rh` which is described by the FORTRAN declaration `REAL RH(4,6)` (note the size and order of the dimensions):

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIM=2) ! rank of netCDF variable
INTEGER NCID      ! netCDF ID
INTEGER STATUS    ! return code
INTEGER RHID      ! variable ID
INTEGER START(NDIM) ! netCDF variable start point
INTEGER COUNT(NDIM) ! size of internal array
INTEGER STRIDE(NDIM) ! netCDF variable subsampling intervals
INTEGER IMAP(NDIM) ! internal array inter-element distances
REAL RH(6,4)      ! note transposition of netCDF variable dimensions
DATA START /1, 1/ ! start at first netCDF variable element
DATA COUNT /4, 6/ ! entire netCDF variable; order corresponds
                  ! to netCDF variable -- not internal array
DATA STRIDE /1, 1/ ! sample every netCDF element
DATA IMAP /6, 1/  ! would be /1, 4/ if not transposing

STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID(NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...

```



```

INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR1_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER INDEX(*), INTEGER IVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR1_REAL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER INDEX(*), REAL RVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR1_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER INDEX(*), DOUBLE DVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR1(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER INDEX(*), VAL)

```

NCID        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

VARID       Variable ID.

INDEX       The index of the data value to be read. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a two-dimensional variable has index (1,1). The elements of index correspond to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index is the record number.

CHVAL

I1VAL

I2VAL

IVAL

RVAL

DVAL

VAL        The location into which the data value will be read. You cannot get CHARACTER data from a numeric variable or numeric data from a character variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur. (see [Section "Type Conversion" in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#)).

## Errors

`NF_GET_VAR1_` type returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified indices were out of range for the rank of the specified variable. For example, a negative index or an index that is larger than the corresponding dimension length will cause an error.
- The value is out of the range of values representable by the desired data type.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_GET_VAR1_DOUBLE` to get the (4,3,2) element of the variable named `rh` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that `rh` is dimensioned with `lon`, `lat`, and `time`, so we want to get the value of `rh` that corresponds to the fourth `lon` value, the third `lat` value, and the second `time` value:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID          ! variable ID
INTEGER RHINDX(3)    ! where to get value
DOUBLE PRECISION RHVAL ! put it here
DATA RHINDX /4, 3, 2/
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_GET_VAR1_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, RHINDX, RHVAL)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.25 NF\_GET\_VAR\_ type

The members of the `NF_GET_VAR_ type` family of functions read all the values from a netCDF variable of an open netCDF dataset. This is the simplest interface to use for reading the value of a scalar variable or when all the values of a multidimensional variable can be read at once. The values are read into consecutive locations with the first dimension varying fastest. The netCDF dataset must be in data mode.

Take care when using the simplest forms of this interface with record variables when you don't specify how many records are to be read. If you try to read all the values of a record variable into an array but there are more records in the file than you assume, more data will be read than you expect, which may cause a segmentation violation.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) text)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER*1 i1vals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER*2 i2vals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER ival(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_REAL (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                REAL rvals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_DOUBLE (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                DOUBLE dvals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                             vals(*))

```

`NCID` NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

`VARID` Variable ID.

TEXT  
 I1VALS  
 I2VALS  
 IVALS  
 RVALS  
 DVALS  
 VALS       The block of data values to be read. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot read CHARACTER data from a numeric variable or numeric data from a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see Section “Type Conversion” in *The NetCDF Users Guide*).

## Errors

NF\_GET\_VAR\_ *type* returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- One or more of the values are out of the range of values representable by the desired type.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_GET\_VAR\_DOUBLE to read all the values of the variable named rh from an existing netCDF dataset named foo.nc. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that rh is dimensioned with lon, lat, and time, and that there are ten lon values, five lat values, and three time values.

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (TIMES=3, LATS=5, LONS=10) ! dimension lengths
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID ! variable ID
DOUBLE RVALS(LONS, LATS, TIMES)
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_GET_VAR_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, RVALS)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.26 NF\_GET\_VARA\_ *type*

The members of the NF\_GET\_VARA\_ *type* family of functions read an array of values from a netCDF variable of an open netCDF dataset. The array is specified by giving a corner

and a vector of edge lengths. The values are read into consecutive locations with the first dimension varying fastest. The netCDF dataset must be in data mode.

## Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_TEXT(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                CHARACTER*(*) text)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_INT1(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER*1 i1vals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_INT2(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER*2 i2vals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                INTEGER ival(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_REAL(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                REAL rvals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                DOUBLE dvals(*))

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**START** A vector of integers specifying the index in the variable where the first of the data values will be read. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a variable would have index (1, 1, ..., 1). The length of `START` must be the same as the number of dimensions of the specified variable. The elements of `START` correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index would correspond to the starting record number for reading the data values.

**COUNT** A vector of integers specifying the edge lengths along each dimension of the block of data values to be read. To read a single value, for example, specify `COUNT` as (1, 1, ..., 1). The length of `COUNT` is the number of dimensions of the specified variable. The elements of `COUNT` correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last element of `COUNT` corresponds to a count of the number of records to read.

Note: setting any element of the count array to zero causes the function to exit without error, and without doing anything.

`text`  
`i1vals`  
`i2vals`  
`ivals`  
`rvals`  
`dvals`      The block of data values to be read. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot read CHARACTER data from a numeric variable or numeric data from a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see [Section “Type Conversion” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#)).

## Errors

`NF_GET_VARA_` *type* returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified corner indices were out of range for the rank of the specified variable. For example, a negative index or an index that is larger than the corresponding dimension length will cause an error.
- The specified edge lengths added to the specified corner would have referenced data out of range for the rank of the specified variable. For example, an edge length that is larger than the corresponding dimension length minus the corner index will cause an error.
- One or more of the values are out of the range of values representable by the desired type.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_GET_VARA_DOUBLE` to read all the values of the variable named `rh` from an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that `rh` is dimensioned with `lon`, `lat`, and `time`, and that there are ten `lon` values, five `lat` values, and three `time` values.

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIMS=3)                ! number of dimensions
PARAMETER (TIMES=3, LATS=5, LONS=10) ! dimension lengths
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID                        ! variable ID
INTEGER START(NDIMS), COUNT(NDIMS)
DOUBLE RHVALS(LONS, LATS, TIMES)
DATA START /1, 1, 1/                ! start at first value
DATA COUNT /LONS, LATS, TIMES/      ! get all the values
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
  
```

```

IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_GET_VARA_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, START, COUNT, RHVALS)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.27 NF\_GET\_VARS\_ type

The `NF_GET_VARS_` type family of functions read a subsampled (strided) array section of values from a netCDF variable of an open netCDF dataset. The subsampled array section is specified by giving a corner, a vector of edge lengths, and a stride vector. The values are read with the first dimension of the netCDF variable varying fastest. The netCDF dataset must be in data mode.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                   INTEGER STRIDE(*), CHARACTER*(*) text)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                   INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER*1 i1vals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                   INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER*2 i2vals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_INT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                   INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER ival(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_REAL (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                   INTEGER STRIDE(*), REAL rvals(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   INTEGER START(*), INTEGER COUNT(*),
                                   INTEGER STRIDE(*), DOUBLE dvals(*))

```

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| NCID  | NetCDF ID, from a previous call to <code>NF_OPEN</code> or <code>NF_CREATE</code> .   |
| VARID | Variable ID.  |
| START | A vector of integers specifying the index in the variable from which the first of the data values will be read. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a variable would have index (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of <code>START</code> correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index would correspond to the starting record number for reading the data values. |
| COUNT | A vector of integers specifying the number of indices selected along each dimension. To read a single value, for example, specify <code>COUNT</code> as (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of <code>COUNT</code> correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence,   |

if the variable is a record variable, the last element of COUNT corresponds to a count of the number of records to read.

Note: setting any element of the count array to zero causes the function to exit without error, and without doing anything.

**STRIDE** A vector of integers specifying, for each dimension, the interval between selected indices or the value 0. The elements of the vector correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. A value of 1 accesses adjacent values of the netCDF variable in the corresponding dimension; a value of 2 accesses every other value of the netCDF variable in the corresponding dimension; and so on. A 0 argument is treated as (1, 1, ..., 1).

text

i1vals

i2vals

ivals

rvals

**dvals** The block of data values to be read. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot read CHARACTER data from a numeric variable or numeric data from a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see [Section "Type Conversion" in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#)).

## Errors

NF\_GET\_VARS\_ *type* returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified start, count and stride generate an index which is out of range.
- One or more of the values are out of the range of values representable by the desired type.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_GET\_VARS\_DOUBLE to read every other value in each dimension of the variable named rh from an existing netCDF dataset named foo.nc. Values are assigned, using the same dimensional strides, to a 2-parameter array. For simplicity in this example, we assume that we know that rh is dimensioned with lon, lat, and time, and that there are ten lon values, five lat values, and three time values.

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIMS=3)           ! number of dimensions
PARAMETER (TIMES=3, LATS=5, LONS=10) ! dimension lengths
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID ! variable ID
```



```
INTEGER STRIDE(*), INTEGER IMAP(*),
DOUBLE dvals(*)
```

NCID	NetCDF ID, from a previous call to <code>NF_OPEN</code> or <code>NF_CREATE</code> .
VARID	Variable ID.
START	A vector of integers specifying the index in the variable from which the first of the data values will be read. The indices are relative to 1, so for example, the first data value of a variable would have index (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of <code>START</code> correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last index would correspond to the starting record number for reading the data values.
COUNT	A vector of integers specifying the number of indices selected along each dimension. To read a single value, for example, specify <code>COUNT</code> as (1, 1, ..., 1). The elements of <code>COUNT</code> correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. Hence, if the variable is a record variable, the last element of <code>COUNT</code> corresponds to a count of the number of records to read.  Note: setting any element of the count array to zero causes the function to exit without error, and without doing anything.
STRIDE	A vector of integers specifying, for each dimension, the interval between selected indices or the value 0. The elements of the vector correspond, in order, to the variable's dimensions. A value of 1 accesses adjacent values of the netCDF variable in the corresponding dimension; a value of 2 accesses every other value of the netCDF variable in the corresponding dimension; and so on. A 0 argument is treated as (1, 1, ..., 1).
IMAP	A vector of integers that specifies the mapping between the dimensions of a netCDF variable and the in-memory structure of the internal data array. <code>IMAP(1)</code> gives the distance between elements of the internal array corresponding to the most rapidly varying dimension of the netCDF variable. <code>IMAP(N)</code> (where N is the rank of the netCDF variable) gives the distance between elements of the internal array corresponding to the most slowly varying dimension of the netCDF variable. Intervening <code>IMAP</code> elements correspond to other dimensions of the netCDF variable in the obvious way. Distances between elements are specified in units of elements (the distance between internal elements that occupy adjacent memory locations is 1 and not the element's byte-length as in netCDF 2).
text	
i1vals	
i2vals	
ivals	
rvals	
dvals	The block of data values to be read. The data should be of the type appropriate for the function called. You cannot read <code>CHARACTER</code> data from a numeric variable or numeric data from a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur (see <a href="#">Section "Type Conversion" in <i>The NetCDF Users Guide</i></a> ).

## Errors

`NF_GET_VARM_` type returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified `START`, `COUNT`, and `STRIDE` generate an index which is out of range. Note that no error checking is possible on the `imap` vector.
- One or more of the values are out of the range of values representable by the desired type.
- The specified netCDF is in define mode rather than data mode.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

The following `IMAP` vector maps in the trivial way a 2x3x4 netCDF variable and an internal array of the same shape:

```

REAL A(2,3,4)          ! same shape as netCDF variable
INTEGER IMAP(3)
DATA IMAP /1, 2, 6/ ! netCDF dimension      inter-element distance
                   ! -----
                   ! most rapidly varying    1
                   ! intermediate           2 (=IMAP(1)*2)
                   ! most slowly varying     6 (=IMAP(2)*3)

```

Using the `IMAP` vector above with `NF_GET_VARM_REAL` obtains the same result as simply using `NF_GET_VAR_REAL`.

Here is an example of using `NF_GET_VARM_REAL` to transpose a netCDF variable named `rh` which is described by the FORTRAN declaration `REAL RH(4,6)` (note the size and order of the dimensions):

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIM=2) ! rank of netCDF variable
INTEGER NCID      ! netCDF dataset ID
INTEGER STATUS    ! return code
INTEGER RHID      ! variable ID
INTEGER START(NDIM) ! netCDF variable start point
INTEGER COUNT(NDIM) ! size of internal array
INTEGER STRIDE(NDIM) ! netCDF variable subsampling intervals
INTEGER IMAP(NDIM) ! internal array inter-element distances
REAL    RH(6,4)    ! note transposition of netCDF variable dimensions
DATA START /1, 1/ ! start at first netCDF variable element
DATA COUNT /4, 6/ ! entire netCDF variable; order corresponds
                  ! to netCDF variable -- not internal array
DATA STRIDE /1, 1/ ! sample every netCDF element
DATA IMAP /6, 1/  ! would be /1, 4/ if not transposing
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)

```

```

IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID(NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_GET_VARM_REAL(NCID, RHID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, RH)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

Here is another example of using `NF_GET_VARM_REAL` to simultaneously transpose and subsample the same netCDF variable, by accessing every other point of the netCDF variable:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (NDIM=2)    ! rank of netCDF variable
INTEGER NCID          ! netCDF dataset ID
INTEGER STATUS        ! return code
INTEGER RHID          ! variable ID
INTEGER START(NDIM)  ! netCDF variable start point
INTEGER COUNT(NDIM)  ! size of internal array
INTEGER STRIDE(NDIM) ! netCDF variable subsampling intervals
INTEGER IMAP(NDIM)   ! internal array inter-element distances
REAL    RH(3,2)       ! note transposition of (subsampled) dimensions
DATA START  /1, 1/    ! start at first netCDF variable value
DATA COUNT  /2, 3/    ! order of (subsampled) dimensions corresponds
                  ! to netCDF variable -- not internal array
DATA STRIDE /2, 2/    ! sample every other netCDF element
DATA IMAP   /3, 1/    ! would be '1, 2' if not transposing
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID(NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_GET_VARM_REAL(NCID, RHID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, RH)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.29 Reading and Writing Character String Values

Character strings are not a primitive netCDF external data type, in part because FORTRAN does not support the abstraction of variable-length character strings (the FORTRAN `LEN` function returns the static length of a character string, not its dynamic length). As a result, a character string cannot be written or read as a single object in the netCDF interface. Instead, a character string must be treated as an array of characters, and array access must be used to read and write character strings as variable data in netCDF datasets. Furthermore, variable-length strings are not supported by the netCDF interface except by convention; for example, you may treat a zero byte as terminating a character string, but

you must explicitly specify the length of strings to be read from and written to netCDF variables.

Character strings as attribute values are easier to use, since the strings are treated as a single unit for access. However, the value of a character-string attribute is still an array of characters with an explicit length that must be specified when the attribute is defined.

When you define a variable that will have character-string values, use a character-position dimension as the most quickly varying dimension for the variable (the first dimension for the variable in FORTRAN). The length of the character-position dimension will be the maximum string length of any value to be stored in the character-string variable. Space for maximum-length strings will be allocated in the disk representation of character-string variables whether you use the space or not. If two or more variables have the same maximum length, the same character-position dimension may be used in defining the variable shapes.

To write a character-string value into a character-string variable, use either entire variable access or array access. The latter requires that you specify both a corner and a vector of edge lengths. The character-position dimension at the corner should be one for FORTRAN. If the length of the string to be written is  $n$ , then the vector of edge lengths will specify  $n$  in the character-position dimension, and one for all the other dimensions:  $(n, 1, 1, \dots, 1)$ .

In FORTRAN, fixed-length strings may be written to a netCDF dataset without a terminating character, to save space. Variable-length strings should follow the C convention of writing strings with a terminating zero byte so that the intended length of the string can be determined when it is later read by either C or FORTRAN programs.

The FORTRAN interface for reading and writing strings requires the use of different functions for accessing string values and numeric values, because standard FORTRAN does not permit the same formal parameter to be used for both character values and numeric values. An additional argument, specifying the declared length of the character string passed as a value, is required for `NF_PUT_VARA_TEXT` and `NF_GET_VARA_TEXT`. The actual length of the string is specified as the value of the edge-length vector corresponding to the character-position dimension.

Here is an example that defines a record variable, `tx`, for character strings and stores a character-string value into the third record using `NF_PUT_VARA_TEXT`. In this example, we assume the string variable and data are to be added to an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` that already has an unlimited record dimension time.

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER  TDIMS, TXLEN
PARAMETER (TDIMS=2)    ! number of TX dimensions
PARAMETER (TXLEN = 15) ! length of example string
INTEGER  NCID
INTEGER  CHID          ! char position dimension id
INTEGER  TIMEID       ! record dimension id
INTEGER  TXID         ! variable ID
INTEGER  TXDIMS(TDIMS) ! variable shape
INTEGER  TSTART(TDIMS), TCOUNT(TDIMS)
CHARACTER*40 TXVAL    ! max length 40

```

```

DATA TXVAL /'example string'/
...
TXVAL(TXLEN:TXLEN) = CHAR(0)    ! null terminate
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_REDEF(NCID)          ! enter define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! define character-position dimension for strings of max length 40
STATUS = NF_DEF_DIM(NCID, "chid", 40, CHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! define a character-string variable
TXDIMS(1) = CHID    ! character-position dimension first
TXDIMS(2) = TIMEID
STATUS = NF_DEF_VAR(NCID, "tx", NF_CHAR, TDIMS, TXDIMS, TXID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF(NCID) ! leave define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! write txval into tx netCDF variable in record 3
TSTART(1) = 1      ! start at beginning of variable
TSTART(2) = 3      ! record number to write
TCOUNT(1) = TXLEN ! number of chars to write
TCOUNT(2) = 1      ! only write one record
STATUS = NF_PUT_VARA_TEXT (NCID, TXID, TSTART, TCOUNT, TXVAL)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 6.30 Fill Values

What happens when you try to read a value that was never written in an open netCDF dataset? You might expect that this should always be an error, and that you should get an error message or an error status returned. You do get an error if you try to read data from a netCDF dataset that is not open for reading, if the variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset, or if the specified indices are not properly within the range defined by the dimension lengths of the specified variable. Otherwise, reading a value that was not written returns a special fill value used to fill in any undefined values when a netCDF variable is first written.

You may ignore fill values and use the entire range of a netCDF external data type, but in this case you should make sure you write all data values before reading them. If you know you will be writing all the data before reading it, you can specify that no prefilling of variables with fill values will occur by calling `NF_SET_FILL` before writing. This may provide a significant performance gain for netCDF writes.

The variable attribute `_FillValue` may be used to specify the fill value for a variable. Their are default fill values for each type, defined in the include file `netcdf.inc`: `NF_FILL_CHAR`,

NF\_FILL\_INT1 (same as NF\_FILL\_BYTE), NF\_FILL\_INT2 (same as NF\_FILL\_SHORT), NF\_FILL\_INT, NF\_FILL\_REAL (same as NF\_FILL\_FLOAT), and NF\_FILL\_DOUBLE.

The netCDF byte and character types have different default fill values. The default fill value for characters is the zero byte, a useful value for detecting the end of variable-length C character strings. If you need a fill value for a byte variable, it is recommended that you explicitly define an appropriate `_FillValue` attribute, as generic utilities such as `ncdump` will not assume a default fill value for byte variables.

Type conversion for fill values is identical to type conversion for other values: attempting to convert a value from one type to another type that can't represent the value results in a range error. Such errors may occur on writing or reading values from a larger type (such as double) to a smaller type (such as float), if the fill value for the larger type cannot be represented in the smaller type.

### 6.31 NF\_RENAME\_VAR

The function `NF_RENAME_VAR` changes the name of a netCDF variable in an open netCDF dataset. If the new name is longer than the old name, the netCDF dataset must be in define mode. You cannot rename a variable to have the name of any existing variable.

#### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_RENAME_VAR (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NEWNAM)
```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID.

**NAME** New name for the specified variable.

#### Errors

`NF_RENAME_VAR` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The new name is in use as the name of another variable.
- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

#### Example

Here is an example using `NF_RENAME_VAR` to rename the variable `rh` to `rel_hum` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID ! variable ID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

```

...
STATUS = NF_REDEF (NCID) ! enter definition mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_RENAME_VAR (NCID, RHID, 'rel_hum')
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF (NCID) ! leave definition mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

### 6.32 Change between Collective and Independent Parallel Access: `NF_VAR_PAR_ACCESS`

The function `NF_VAR_PAR_ACCESS` changes whether read/write operations on a parallel file system are performed collectively (the default) or independently on the variable. This function can only be called if the file was created with `NF_CREATE_PAR` (see [Section 2.7 \[NF\\_CREATE\\_PAR\], page 12](#)) or opened with `NF_OPEN_PAR` (see [Section 2.10 \[NF\\_OPEN\\_PAR\], page 15](#)).

This function is only available if the netCDF library was built with a HDF5 library for which `-enable-parallel` was used, and which was linked (like HDF5) to MPI libraries.

Calling this function affects only the open file - information about whether a variable is to be accessed collectively or independently is not written to the data file. Every time you open a file on a parallel file system, all variables default to collective operations. The change a variable to independent lasts only as long as that file is open.

The variable can be changed from collective to independent, and back, as often as desired.

#### Usage

```

INTEGER NF_VAR_PAR_ACCESS(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, INTEGER ACCESS);

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN_PAR` (see [Section 2.10 \[NF\\_OPEN\\_PAR\], page 15](#)) or `NF_CREATE_PAR` (see [Section 2.7 \[NF\\_CREATE\\_PAR\], page 12](#)).

**varid** Variable ID.

**access** `NF_INDEPENDENT` to set this variable to independent operations.  
`NF_COLLECTIVE` to set it to collective operations.

#### Return Values

`NF_NOERR` No error.

`NF_ENOTVAR`  
 No variable found.

`NF_ENOTNC4`  
 Not a netCDF-4 file.

`NF_NOPAR` File not opened for parallel access.

## Example

This example comes from test program `nf_test/ftst_parallel.F`. For this test to be run, `netCDF` must have been built with a parallel-enabled `HDF5`, and `-enable-parallel-tests` must have been used when configuring `netcdf`.

```
retval = nf_var_par_access(ncid, varid, nf_collective)
if (retval .ne. nf_noerr) stop 2
```



## 7 Attributes

### 7.1 Attributes Introduction

Attributes may be associated with each netCDF variable to specify such properties as units, special values, maximum and minimum valid values, scaling factors, and offsets. Attributes for a netCDF dataset are defined when the dataset is first created, while the netCDF dataset is in define mode. Additional attributes may be added later by reentering define mode. A netCDF attribute has a netCDF variable to which it is assigned, a name, a type, a length, and a sequence of one or more values. An attribute is designated by its variable ID and name. When an attribute name is not known, it may be designated by its variable ID and number in order to determine its name, using the function `NF_INQ_ATTNAME`.

The attributes associated with a variable are typically defined immediately after the variable is created, while still in define mode. The data type, length, and value of an attribute may be changed even when in data mode, as long as the changed attribute requires no more space than the attribute as originally defined.

It is also possible to have attributes that are not associated with any variable. These are called global attributes and are identified by using `NF_GLOBAL` as a variable pseudo-ID. Global attributes are usually related to the netCDF dataset as a whole and may be used for purposes such as providing a title or processing history for a netCDF dataset.

Attributes are much more useful when they follow established community conventions. See [Section “Attribute Conventions” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

Operations supported on attributes are:

- Create an attribute, given its variable ID, name, data type, length, and value.
- Get attribute’s data type and length from its variable ID and name.
- Get attribute’s value from its variable ID and name.
- Copy attribute from one netCDF variable to another.
- Get name of attribute from its number.
- Rename an attribute.
- Delete an attribute.

### 7.2 `NF_PUT_ATT_` type

The function `NF_PUT_ATT_` type adds or changes a variable attribute or global attribute of an open netCDF dataset. If this attribute is new, or if the space required to store the attribute is greater than before, the netCDF dataset must be in define mode.

#### Usage

Although it’s possible to create attributes of all types, text and double attributes are adequate for most purposes.

```

INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                   CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER LEN,
                                   CHARACTER*(*) TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
```

```

                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                LEN, INTEGER*1 I1VALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                LEN, INTEGER*2 I2VALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_INT  (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                LEN, INTEGER IVALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_REAL (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                LEN, REAL RVALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_DOUBLE(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                LEN, DOUBLE DVALS(*))
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT      (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER XTYPE,
                                LEN, * VALS(*))

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID of the variable to which the attribute will be assigned or `NF_GLOBAL` for a global attribute.

**NAME** Attribute name. Attribute name conventions are assumed by some netCDF generic applications, e.g., ‘`units`’ as the name for a string attribute that gives the units for a netCDF variable. See [Section “Attribute Conventions” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

**XTYPE** One of the set of predefined netCDF external data types. The type of this parameter, `NF_TYPE`, is defined in the netCDF header file. The valid netCDF external data types are `NF_BYTE`, `NF_CHAR`, `NF_SHORT`, `NF_INT`, `NF_FLOAT`, and `NF_DOUBLE`. Although it’s possible to create attributes of all types, `NF_CHAR` and `NF_DOUBLE` attributes are adequate for most purposes.

**LEN** Number of values provided for the attribute.

**TEXT**

**I1VALS**

**I2VALS**

**IVALS**

**RVALS**

**DVALS**

**VALS** An array of `LEN` attribute values. The data should be of a type appropriate for the function called. You cannot write `CHARACTER` data into a numeric attribute or numeric data into a text attribute. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the attribute type, type conversion will occur. See [Section “Type Conversion” in \*The NetCDF Users Guide\*](#).

## Errors

`NF_PUT_ATT_type` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified netCDF type is invalid.
- The specified length is negative.
- The specified open netCDF dataset is in data mode and the specified attribute would expand.
- The specified open netCDF dataset is in data mode and the specified attribute does not already exist.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.
- The number of attributes for this variable exceeds `NF_MAX_ATTRS`.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_PUT_ATT_DOUBLE` to add a variable attribute named `valid_range` for a netCDF variable named `rh` and a global attribute named `title` to an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID                ! variable ID
DOUBLE RHRNGE(2)
DATA RHRNGE /0.0D0, 100.0D0/
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_REDEF (NCID)      ! enter define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_PUT_ATT_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, 'valid_range', NF_DOUBLE, &
                           2, RHRNGE)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_PUT_ATT_TEXT (NCID, NF_GLOBAL, 'title', 19,
                          'example netCDF dataset')
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF (NCID)     ! leave define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

### 7.3 NF\_INQ\_ATT Family

This family of functions returns information about a netCDF attribute. All but one of these functions require the variable ID and attribute name; the exception is `NF_INQ_ATTNAME`. Information about an attribute includes its type, length, name, and number. See the `NF_GET_ATT` family for getting attribute values.

The function `NF_INQ_ATTNAME` gets the name of an attribute, given its variable ID and number. This function is useful in generic applications that need to get the names of all the attributes associated with a variable, since attributes are accessed by name rather than number in all other attribute functions. The number of an attribute is more volatile than the name, since it can change when other attributes of the same variable are deleted. This is why an attribute number is not called an attribute ID.

The function `NF_INQ_ATT` returns the attribute's type and length. The other functions each return just one item of information about an attribute.

#### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ATT      (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER xtype,
                                INTEGER len)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ATTTYPE (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER xtype)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ATTLEN  (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER len)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ATTNAME (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                INTEGER ATTNUM, CHARACTER*(*) name)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_INQ_ATTID   (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER attnum)

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID** Variable ID of the attribute's variable, or `NF_GLOBAL` for a global attribute.

**NAME** Attribute name. For `NF_INQ_ATTNAME`, this is a pointer to the location for the returned attribute name.

**xtype** Returned attribute type, one of the set of predefined netCDF external data types. The valid netCDF external data types are `NF_BYTE`, `NF_CHAR`, `NF_SHORT`, `NF_INT`, `NF_FLOAT`, and `NF_DOUBLE`.

**len** Returned number of values currently stored in the attribute. For a string-valued attribute, this is the number of characters in the string.

**attnum** For `NF_INQ_ATTNAME`, the input attribute number; for `NF_INQ_ATTID`, the returned attribute number. The attributes for each variable are numbered from 1 (the first attribute) to `NATTS`, where `NATTS` is the number of attributes for the variable, as returned from a call to `NF_INQ_VARNATTS`.

(If you already know an attribute name, knowing its number is not very useful, because accessing information about an attribute requires its name.)

## Errors

Each function returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified attribute does not exist.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.
- For `NF_INQ_ATTNAME`, the specified attribute number is negative or more than the number of attributes defined for the specified variable.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_INQ_ATT` to find out the type and length of a variable attribute named `valid_range` for a netCDF variable named `rh` and a global attribute named `title` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID           ! variable ID
INTEGER VRLEN, TLEN    ! attribute lengths
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_ATTLEN (NCID, RHID, 'valid_range', VRLEN)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_ATTLEN (NCID, NF_GLOBAL, 'title', TLEN)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```

## 7.4 `NF_GET_ATT_` *type*

Members of the `NF_GET_ATT_` *type* family of functions get the value(s) of a netCDF attribute, given its variable ID and name.

### Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT_TEXT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                                CHARACTER*(*) text)

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT_INT1 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                 CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                                 INTEGER*1 i1vals(*))

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT_INT2 (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                                 CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                                 INTEGER*2 i2vals(*))
```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT_INT	(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER ival <sub>s</sub> (*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT_REAL	(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, REAL rval <sub>s</sub> (*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT_DOUBLE	(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, DOUBLE dval <sub>s</sub> (*))
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_ATT	(INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, CHARACTER*(*) NAME, * val <sub>s</sub> (*))
NCID	NetCDF ID, from a previous call to NF_OPEN or NF_CREATE.
VARID	Variable ID of the attribute's variable, or NF_GLOBAL for a global attribute.
NAME	Attribute name.
TEXT	
I1VALS	
I2VALS	
IVALS	
RVALS	
DVALS	
VALS	Returned attribute values. All elements of the vector of attribute values are returned, so you must provide enough space to hold them. If you don't know how much space to reserve, call NF_INQ_ATTLEN first to find out the length of the attribute. You cannot read character data from a numeric variable or numeric data from a text variable. For numeric data, if the type of data differs from the netCDF variable type, type conversion will occur. See <a href="#">Section "Type Conversion" in <i>The NetCDF Users Guide</i></a> .

## Errors

NF\_GET\_ATT\_ type returns the value NF\_NOERR if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified attribute does not exist.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.
- One or more of the attribute values are out of the range of values representable by the desired type.

## Example

Here is an example using NF\_GET\_ATT\_DOUBLE to determine the values of a variable attribute named valid\_range for a netCDF variable named rh and a global attribute named title in an existing netCDF dataset named foo.nc. In this example, it is assumed that we don't know how many values will be returned, but that we do know the types of the attributes. Hence, to allocate enough space to store them, we must first inquire about the length of the attributes.

```

INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
PARAMETER (MVRLEN=3)           ! max number of "valid_range" values
PARAMETER (MTLEN=80)          ! max length of "title" attribute
INTEGER STATUS, NCID
INTEGER RHID                   ! variable ID
INTEGER VRLEN, TLEN           ! attribute lengths
DOUBLE PRECISION VRVAL(MVRLEN) ! vr attribute values
CHARACTER*80 TITLE            ! title attribute values
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! find out attribute lengths, to make sure we have enough space
STATUS = NF_INQ_ATTLEN (NCID, RHID, 'valid_range', VRLEN)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_ATTLEN (NCID, NF_GLOBAL, 'title', TLEN)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
! get attribute values, if not too big
IF (VRLEN .GT. MVRLEN) THEN
    WRITE (*,*) 'valid_range attribute too big!'
    CALL EXIT
ELSE
    STATUS = NF_GET_ATT_DOUBLE (NCID, RHID, 'valid_range', VRVAL)
    IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
ENDIF
IF (TLEN .GT. MTLEN) THEN
    WRITE (*,*) 'title attribute too big!'
    CALL EXIT
ELSE
    STATUS = NF_GET_ATT_TEXT (NCID, NF_GLOBAL, 'title', TITLE)
    IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
ENDIF
ENDIF

```

## 7.5 NF\_COPY\_ATT

The function `NF_COPY_ATT` copies an attribute from one open netCDF dataset to another. It can also be used to copy an attribute from one variable to another within the same netCDF.

If used to copy an attribute of user-defined type, then that user-defined type must already be defined in the target file. In the case of user-defined attributes, `enddef/redef` is called for `ncid_in` and `ncid_out` if they are in `define` mode. (This is to ensure that all user-defined types are committed to the file(s) before the copy is attempted.)

## Usage

```
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_COPY_ATT (INTEGER NCID_IN, INTEGER VARID_IN,
                             CHARACTER*(*) NAME, INTEGER NCID_OUT,
                             INTEGER VARID_OUT)
```

- NCID\_IN** The netCDF ID of an input netCDF dataset from which the attribute will be copied, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.
- VARID\_IN** ID of the variable in the input netCDF dataset from which the attribute will be copied, or `NF_GLOBAL` for a global attribute.
- NAME** Name of the attribute in the input netCDF dataset to be copied.
- NCID\_OUT** The netCDF ID of the output netCDF dataset to which the attribute will be copied, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`. It is permissible for the input and output netCDF IDs to be the same. The output netCDF dataset should be in define mode if the attribute to be copied does not already exist for the target variable, or if it would cause an existing target attribute to grow.
- VARID\_OUT** ID of the variable in the output netCDF dataset to which the attribute will be copied, or `NF_GLOBAL` to copy to a global attribute.

## Errors

`NF_COPY_ATT` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The input or output variable ID is invalid for the specified netCDF dataset.
- The specified attribute does not exist.
- The output netCDF is not in define mode and the attribute is new for the output dataset is larger than the existing attribute.
- The input or output netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_COPY_ATT` to copy the variable attribute units from the variable `rh` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc` to the variable `avgrh` in another existing netCDF dataset named `bar.nc`, assuming that the variable `avgrh` already exists, but does not yet have a units attribute:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS           ! error status
INTEGER NCID1, NCID2    ! netCDF IDs
INTEGER RHID, AVRHID    ! variable IDs
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_NOWRITE, NCID1)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('bar.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID2)
```

```

IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID1, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID2, 'avgrh', AVRHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_REDEF (NCID2) ! enter define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
! copy variable attribute from "rh" to "avgrh"
STATUS = NF_COPY_ATT (NCID1, RHID, 'units', NCID2, AVRHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF (NCID2) ! leave define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 7.6 NF\_RENAME\_ATT

The function `NF_RENAME_ATT` changes the name of an attribute. If the new name is longer than the original name, the netCDF dataset must be in define mode. You cannot rename an attribute to have the same name as another attribute of the same variable.

### Usage

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_RENAME_ATT (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID,
                               CHARACTER*(*) NAME,
                               CHARACTER*(*) NEWNAME)

```

**NCID** NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`

**VARID** ID of the attribute's variable, or `NF_GLOBAL` for a global attribute

**NAME** The current attribute name.

**NEWNAME** The new name to be assigned to the specified attribute. If the new name is longer than the current name, the netCDF dataset must be in define mode.

### Errors

`NF_RENAME_ATT` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified variable ID is not valid.
- The new attribute name is already in use for another attribute of the specified variable.
- The specified netCDF dataset is in data mode and the new name is longer than the old name.
- The specified attribute does not exist.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_RENAME_ATT` to rename the variable attribute units to Units for a variable `rh` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```

INCLUDE "netcdf.inc"
...
INTEGER STATUS    ! error status
INTEGER NCID     ! netCDF ID
INTEGER RHID     ! variable ID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ("foo.nc", NF_NOWRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, "rh", RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! rename attribute
STATUS = NF_RENAME_ATT (NCID, RHID, "units", "Units")
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)

```

## 7.7 NF\_DEL\_ATT

The function `NF_DEL_ATT` deletes a netCDF attribute from an open netCDF dataset. The netCDF dataset must be in define mode.

### Usage

INTEGER FUNCTION `NF_DEL_ATT` (INTEGER NCID, INTEGER VARID, CHARACTER\*(\*) NAME)

**NCID**        NetCDF ID, from a previous call to `NF_OPEN` or `NF_CREATE`.

**VARID**      ID of the attribute's variable, or `NF_GLOBAL` for a global attribute.

**NAME**        The name of the attribute to be deleted.

### Errors

`NF_DEL_ATT` returns the value `NF_NOERR` if no errors occurred. Otherwise, the returned status indicates an error. Possible causes of errors include:

- The specified variable ID is not valid.
- The specified netCDF dataset is in data mode.
- The specified attribute does not exist.
- The specified netCDF ID does not refer to an open netCDF dataset.

## Example

Here is an example using `NF_DEL_ATT` to delete the variable attribute Units for a variable `rh` in an existing netCDF dataset named `foo.nc`:

```
INCLUDE 'netcdf.inc'
...
INTEGER STATUS          ! error status
INTEGER NCID            ! netCDF ID
INTEGER RHID            ! variable ID
...
STATUS = NF_OPEN ('foo.nc', NF_WRITE, NCID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
STATUS = NF_INQ_VARID (NCID, 'rh', RHID)
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
...
! delete attribute
STATUS = NF_REDEF (NCID) ! enter define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_DEL_ATT (NCID, RHID, 'Units')
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
STATUS = NF_ENDDEF (NCID) ! leave define mode
IF (STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) CALL HANDLE_ERR(STATUS)
```



## Appendix A NetCDF 2 to NetCDF 3 Fortran 77 Transition Guide

### A.1 Overview of FORTRAN interface changes

NetCDF version 3 includes a complete rewrite of the netCDF library. It is about twice as fast as the previous version. The netCDF file format is unchanged, so files written with version 3 can be read with version 2 code and vice versa.

The core library is now written in ANSI C. You must have an ANSI C compiler to compile this version. The FORTRAN interface is layered on top of the C interface using a different technique than was used in netCDF-2.

Rewriting the library offered an opportunity to implement improved C and FORTRAN interfaces that provide some significant benefits:

- type safety, by eliminating the need to use type punning in arguments;
- automatic type conversions, by eliminating the undesirable coupling between the language-independent external netCDF types (NF\_BYTE, ..., NF\_DOUBLE) and language-dependent internal data types (INT\*1, ..., DOUBLE PRECISION);
- support for future enhancements, by eliminating obstacles to the clean addition of support for packed data and multithreading;
- more standard error behavior, by uniformly communicating an error status back to the calling program in the return value of each function.

It is not necessary to rewrite programs that use the version 2 FORTRAN interface, because the netCDF-3 library includes a backward compatibility interface that supports all the old functions, globals, and behavior. We are hoping that the benefits of the new interface will be an incentive to use it in new netCDF applications. It is possible to convert old applications to the new interface incrementally, replacing netCDF-2 calls with the corresponding netCDF-3 calls one at a time.

Other changes in the implementation of netCDF result in improved portability, maintainability, and performance on most platforms. A clean separation between I/O and type layers facilitates platform-specific optimizations. The new library no longer uses a vendor-provided XDR library, which simplifies linking programs that use netCDF and speeds up data access significantly in most cases.

### A.2 The New FORTRAN Interface

First, here's an example of FORTRAN code that uses the netCDF-2 interface:

```
! Use a buffer big enough for values of any type
DOUBLE PRECISION DBUF(NDATA)
REAL RBUF(NDATA)
...
EQUIVALENCE (RBUF, DBUF), ...
INT XTYPE      ! to hold the actual type of the data
INT STATUS     ! for error status
! Get the actual data type
CALL NCVINQ(NCID, VARID, ...,XTYPE, ...)
...
```

```

! Get the data
CALL NCVGT(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, DBUF, STATUS)
IF(STATUS .NE. NCNOERR) THEN
  PRINT *, 'Cannot get data, error code =', STATUS
  ! Deal with error
  ...
ENDIF
IF (XTYPE .EQ. NCDOUBLE) THEN
  CALL DANALYZE(DBUF)
ELSEIF (XTYPE .EQ. NCFLOAT) THEN
  CALL RANALYZE(RBUF)
...
ENDIF

```

Here's how you might handle this with the new netCDF-3 FORTRAN interface:

```

! I want to use doubles for my analysis
DOUBLE PRECISION DBUF(NDATA)
INT STATUS
! So I use a function that gets the data as doubles.
STATUS = NF_GET_VARA_DOUBLE(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, DBUF)
IF(STATUS .NE. NF_NOERR) THEN
  PRINT *, 'Cannot get data, ', NF_STRERROR(STATUS)
  ! Deal with error
  ...
ENDIF
CALL DANALYZE(DBUF)

```

The example above illustrates changes in function names, data type conversion, and error handling, discussed in detail in the sections below.

### A.3 Function Naming Conventions

The netCDF-3 C library employs a new naming convention, intended to make netCDF programs more readable. For example, the name of the function to rename a variable is now `NF_RENAME_VAR` instead of the previous `NCVREN`.

All netCDF-3 FORTRAN function names begin with the `NF_` prefix. The second part of the name is a verb, like `GET`, `PUT`, `INQ` (for inquire), or `OPEN`. The third part of the name is typically the object of the verb: for example `DIM`, `VAR`, or `ATT` for functions dealing with dimensions, variables, or attributes. To distinguish the various I/O operations for variables, a single character modifier is appended to `VAR`:

- `VAR` entire variable access
- `VAR1` single value access
- `VARA` array or array section access
- `VARS` strided access to a subsample of values
- `VARM` mapped access to values not contiguous in memory

At the end of the name for variable and attribute functions, there is a component indicating the type of the final argument: `TEXT`, `INT1`, `INT2`, `INT`, `REAL`, or `DOUBLE`.

This part of the function name indicates the type of the data container you are using in your program: character string, 1-byte integer, and so on.

Also, all PARAMETER names in the public FORTRAN interface begin with the prefix `NF_`. For example, the PARAMETER which was formerly `MAXNCNAM` is now `NF_MAX_NAME`, and the former `FILFLOAT` is now `NF_FILL_FLOAT`.

As previously mentioned, all the old names are still supported for backward compatibility.

## A.4 Type Conversion

With the new interface, users need not be aware of the external type of numeric variables, since automatic conversion to or from any desired numeric type is now available. You can use this feature to simplify code, by making it independent of external types. The elimination of type punning prevents some kinds of type errors that could occur with the previous interface. Programs may be made more robust with the new interface, because they need not be changed to accommodate a change to the external type of a variable.

If conversion to or from an external numeric type is necessary, it is handled by the library. This automatic conversion and separation of external data representation from internal data types will become even more important in netCDF version 4, when new external types will be added for packed data for which there is no natural corresponding internal type, for example, arrays of 11-bit values.

Converting from one numeric type to another may result in an error if the target type is not capable of representing the converted value. (In netCDF-2, such overflows can only happen in the XDR layer.) For example, a REAL may not be able to hold data stored externally as an `NF_DOUBLE` (an IEEE floating-point number). When accessing an array of values, an `NF_ERANGE` error is returned if one or more values are out of the range of representable values, but other values are converted properly.

Note that mere loss of precision in type conversion does not return an error. Thus, if you read double precision values into an `INTEGER`, for example, no error results unless the magnitude of the double precision value exceeds the representable range of `INTEGER`s on your platform. Similarly, if you read a large integer into a `REAL` incapable of representing all the bits of the integer in its mantissa, this loss There are two new functions in netCDF-3 that don't correspond to any netCDF-2 functions: `NF_INQ_LIBVERS` and `NF_STRERROR`. The version ation The previous implementation returned an error when the same dimension was used more than once in specifying the shape of a variable in `ncvardef`. This restriction is relaxed in the netCDF-3 implementation, because an autocorrelation matrix is a good example where using the same dimension twice makes sense.

In the new interface, units for the `IMAP` argument to the `NF_PUT_VARM` and `NF_GET_VARM` families of functions are now in terms of the number of data elements of the desired internal type, not in terms of bytes as in the netCDF version-2 mapped access interfaces.

Following is a table of netCDF-2 function names and names of the corresponding netCDF-3 functions. For parameter lists of netCDF-2 functions, see the netCDF-2 User's Guide.

`NCABOR`      `NF_ABORT`

NCACPY	NF_COPY_ATT
NCADEL	NF_DEL_ATT
NCAGT	NF_GET_ATT_DOUBLE, NF_GET_ATT_REAL, NF_GET_ATT_INT, NF_GET_ATT_INT1, NF_GET_ATT_INT2
NCAGTC	NF_GET_ATT_TEXT
NCAINQ	NF_INQ_ATT, NF_INQ_ATTID, NF_INQ_ATTLEN, NF_INQ_ATTTYPE
NCANAM	NF_INQ_ATTNAME
NCAPT	NF_PUT_ATT_DOUBLE, NF_PUT_ATT_REAL, NF_PUT_ATT_INT, NF_PUT_ATT_INT1NF_PUT

## Appendix B Summary of FORTRAN 77 Interface

Input parameters are in upper case, output parameters are in lower case. The FORTRAN types of all the parameters are listed alphabetically by parameter name below the function declarations.

```

CHARACTER*80 FUNCTION  NF_INQ_LIBVERS()
CHARACTER*80 FUNCTION  NF_STRERROR  (NCERR)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_CREATE          (PATH, CMODE, ncid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_OPEN            (PATH, MODE, ncid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_SET_FILL        (NCID, FILLMODE, old_mode)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_REDEF            (NCID)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_ENDDEF          (NCID)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_SYNC            (NCID)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_ABORT           (NCID)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_CLOSE           (NCID)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ              (NCID, ndims, nvars, ngatts,
                                       unlimdimid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_NDIMS        (NCID, ndims)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_NVARS        (NCID, nvars)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_NATTS        (NCID, ngatts)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_UNLIMDIM     (NCID, unlimdimid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_DEF_DIM          (NCID, NAME, LEN, dimid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_DIMID        (NCID, NAME, dimid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_DIM          (NCID, DIMID, name, len)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_DIMNAME      (NCID, DIMID, name)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_DIMLEN       (NCID, DIMID, len)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_RENAME_DIM       (NCID, DIMID, NAME)

INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_DEF_VAR          (NCID, NAME, XTYPE, NDIMS, DIMIDS,
                                       varid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VAR          (NCID, VARID, name, xtype, ndims,
                                       dimids, natts)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VARID        (NCID, NAME, varid)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VARNAME      (NCID, VARID, name)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VARTYPE      (NCID, VARID, xtype)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VARNDIMS     (NCID, VARID, ndims)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VARDIMID     (NCID, VARID, DIMIDS)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_INQ_VARNATTS     (NCID, VARID, natts)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_RENAME_VAR       (NCID, VARID, NAME)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR_TEXT     (NCID, VARID, TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR_TEXT     (NCID, VARID, text)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR_INT1     (NCID, VARID, I1VAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR_INT1     (NCID, VARID, i1val)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR_INT2     (NCID, VARID, I2VAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR_INT2     (NCID, VARID, i2val)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_VAR_INT      (NCID, VARID, IVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_VAR_INT      (NCID, VARID, ival)

```

```

INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_REAL (NCID, VARID, RVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_REAL (NCID, VARID, rval)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR_DOUBLE (NCID, VARID, DVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR_DOUBLE (NCID, VARID, dval)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR1_TEXT (NCID, VARID, INDEX, TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR1_TEXT (NCID, VARID, INDEX, text)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR1_INT1 (NCID, VARID, INDEX, I1VAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR1_INT1 (NCID, VARID, INDEX, i1val)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR1_INT2 (NCID, VARID, INDEX, I2VAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR1_INT2 (NCID, VARID, INDEX, i2val)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR1_INT (NCID, VARID, INDEX, IVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR1_INT (NCID, VARID, INDEX, ival)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR1_REAL (NCID, VARID, INDEX, RVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR1_REAL (NCID, VARID, INDEX, rval)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VAR1_DOUBLE (NCID, VARID, INDEX, DVAL)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VAR1_DOUBLE (NCID, VARID, INDEX, dval)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA_TEXT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_TEXT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, text)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA_INT1 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, I1VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_INT1 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, i1vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA_INT2 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, I2VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_INT2 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, i2vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA_INT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, IVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_INT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, ivals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA_REAL (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, RVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_REAL (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, rvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARA_DOUBLE (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, DVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARA_DOUBLE (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, dvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_TEXT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_TEXT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    text)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_INT1 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    I1VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_INT1 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    i1vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_INT2 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    I2VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_INT2 (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    i2vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_INT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    IVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_INT (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    ivals)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_PUT_VARS_REAL (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,
    RVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION NF_GET_VARS_REAL (NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE,

```

		rvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARS_DOUBLE	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, DVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARS_DOUBLE	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, dvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARM_TEXT	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARM_TEXT	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, text)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARM_INT1	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, I1VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARM_INT1	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, i1vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARM_INT2	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, I2VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARM_INT2	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, i2vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARM_INT	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, IVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARM_INT	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, ivalS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARM_REAL	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, RVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARM_REAL	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, rvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_VARM_DOUBLE	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, DVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_VARM_DOUBLE	(NCID, VARID, START, COUNT, STRIDE, IMAP, dvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_INQ_ATT	(NCID, VARID, NAME, xtype, len)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_INQ_ATTID	(NCID, VARID, NAME, attnum)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_INQ_ATTTYPE	(NCID, VARID, NAME, xtype)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_INQ_ATTLEN	(NCID, VARID, NAME, len)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_INQ_ATTNAME	(NCID, VARID, ATTNUM, name)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_COPY_ATT	(NCID_IN, VARID_IN, NAME, NCID_OUT, VARID_OUT)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_RENAME_ATT	(NCID, VARID, CURNAME, NEWNAME)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_DEL_ATT	(NCID, VARID, NAME)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_ATT_TEXT	(NCID, VARID, NAME, LEN, TEXT)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_ATT_TEXT	(NCID, VARID, NAME, text)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_ATT_INT1	(NCID, VARID, NAME, XTYPE, LEN, I1VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_ATT_INT1	(NCID, VARID, NAME, i1vals)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_PUT_ATT_INT2	(NCID, VARID, NAME, XTYPE, LEN, I2VALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION	NF_GET_ATT_INT2	(NCID, VARID, NAME, i2vals)

```

INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_INT      (NCID, VARID, NAME, XTYPE, LEN,
                                     IVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_ATT_INT      (NCID, VARID, NAME, ivals)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_REAL     (NCID, VARID, NAME, XTYPE, LEN,
                                     RVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_ATT_REAL     (NCID, VARID, NAME, rvals)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_PUT_ATT_DOUBLE   (NCID, VARID, NAME, XTYPE, LEN,
                                     DVALS)
INTEGER FUNCTION  NF_GET_ATT_DOUBLE   (NCID, VARID, NAME, dvals)

INTEGER          ATTNUM                ! attribute number
INTEGER          attnum                ! returned attribute number
INTEGER          CMODE                 ! NF_NOCLOBBER, NF_SHARE flags expression
INTEGER          COUNT                 ! array of edge lengths of block of values
CHARACTER(*)     CURNAME               ! current name (before renaming)
INTEGER          DIMID                 ! dimension ID
INTEGER          dimid                 ! returned dimension ID
INTEGER          DIMIDS                ! list of dimension IDs
INTEGER          dimids                ! list of returned dimension IDs
DOUBLEPRECISION DVAL                  ! single data value
DOUBLEPRECISION dval                  ! returned single data value
DOUBLEPRECISION DVALS                 ! array of data values
DOUBLEPRECISION dvals                 ! array of returned data values
INTEGER          FILLMODE              ! NF_NOFILL or NF_FILL, for setting fill mode
INTEGER*1        I1VAL                ! single data value
INTEGER*1        i1val                 ! returned single data value
INTEGER*1        I1VALS               ! array of data values
INTEGER*1        i1vals                ! array of returned data values
INTEGER*2        I2VAL                ! single data value
INTEGER*2        i2val                 ! returned single data value
INTEGER*2        I2VALS               ! array of data values
INTEGER*2        i2vals                ! array of returned data values
INTEGER          IMAP                  ! index mapping vector
INTEGER          INDEX                 ! variable array index vector
INTEGER          IVAL                  ! single data value
INTEGER          ival                  ! returned single data value
INTEGER          IVALS                 ! array of data values
INTEGER          ival                  ! array of returned data values
INTEGER          LEN                   ! dimension or attribute length
INTEGER          len                    ! returned dimension or attribute length
INTEGER          MODE                  ! open mode, one of NF_WRITE or NF_NOWRITE
CHARACTER(*)     NAME                  ! dimension, variable, or attribute name
CHARACTER(*)     name                  ! returned dim, var, or att name
INTEGER          natts                 ! returned number of attributes
INTEGER          NCERR                 ! error returned from NF_xxx function call
INTEGER          NCID                  ! netCDF ID of an open netCDF dataset
INTEGER          ncid                   ! returned netCDF ID

```

INTEGER	NCID_IN	! netCDF ID of open source netCDF dataset
INTEGER	NCID_OUT	! netCDF ID of open destination netCDF dataset
INTEGER	NDIMS	! number of dimensions
INTEGER	ndims	! returned number of dimensions
CHARACTER(*)	NEWNAME	! new name for dim, var, or att
INTEGER	ngatts	! returned number of global attributes
INTEGER	nvars	! returned number of variables
INTEGER	old_mode	! previous fill mode, NF_NOFILL or NF_FILL,
CHARACTER(*)	PATH	! name of netCDF dataset
REAL	RVAL	! single data value
REAL	rval	! returned single data value
REAL	RVALS	! array of data values
REAL	rvals	! array of returned data values
INTEGER	START	! variable array indices of first value
INTEGER	STRIDE	! variable array dimensional strides
CHARACTER(*)	TEXT	! input text value
CHARACTER(*)	text	! returned text value
INTEGER	unlimdimid	! returned ID of unlimited dimension
INTEGER	VARID	! variable ID
INTEGER	varid	! returned variable ID
INTEGER	VARID_IN	! variable ID
INTEGER	VARID_OUT	! variable ID
INTEGER	XTYPE	! external type: NF_BYTE, NF_CHAR, ... ,
INTEGER	xtype	! returned external type



# Index

## A

attributes, adding ..... 4

## B

big-endian ..... 85

## C

checksum ..... 82  
 chunking ..... 72  
 chunksizes ..... 72  
 compiling with netCDF library ..... 5  
 compound types, overview ..... 49  
 compression, setting parameters ..... 78  
 contiguous ..... 72  
 creating dataset ..... 1

## D

datasets, introduction ..... 7  
 deflate ..... 78  
 dimensions, adding ..... 4

## E

endianness ..... 85  
 enum type ..... 62

## F

fill ..... 77  
 fletcher32 ..... 82

## G

groups, overview ..... 29

## H

HDF5 chunk cache ..... 27, 28, 76  
 HDF5 chunk cache, per-variable ..... 75

## I

interface descriptions ..... 7

## L

linking to netCDF library ..... 5  
 little-endian ..... 85

## N

nc\_get\_chunk\_cache ..... 28  
 nc\_set\_chunk\_cache ..... 27  
 nc\_set\_var\_chunk\_cache ..... 75  
 NF\_CREATE ..... 10  
 NF\_ENDDEF ..... 18  
 NF\_OPEN ..... 14  
 NF\_ABORT ..... 23  
 NF\_CLOSE ..... 20  
 NF\_CLOSE, typical use ..... 1  
 NF\_COPY\_ATT ..... 125  
 NF\_CREATE ..... 9  
 NF\_CREATE, typical use ..... 1  
 NF\_CREATE\_PAR ..... 12  
 NF\_DEF\_COMPOUND ..... 49  
 NF\_DEF\_DIM ..... 39  
 NF\_DEF\_DIM, typical use ..... 1  
 NF\_DEF\_ENUM ..... 62  
 NF\_DEF\_GRP ..... 37  
 NF\_DEF\_OPAQUE ..... 61  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR ..... 70  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR, typical use ..... 1  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR\_CHUNKING ..... 72  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR\_DEFLATE ..... 78  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR\_ENDIAN ..... 85  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR\_FILL ..... 77  
 NF\_DEF\_VAR\_FLETCHER32 ..... 82  
 NF\_DEF\_VLEN ..... 57, 58  
 NF\_DEL\_ATT ..... 128  
 NF\_ENDDEF ..... 17  
 NF\_ENDDEF, typical use ..... 1  
 NF\_FREE\_VLEN ..... 58  
 NF\_GET\_ATT, typical use ..... 2  
 NF\_GET\_ATT\_type ..... 123  
 nf\_get\_chunk\_cache ..... 76  
 NF\_GET\_VAR, typical use ..... 2  
 NF\_GET\_VAR\_type ..... 103  
 NF\_GET\_VAR1\_type ..... 101  
 NF\_GET\_VARA\_type ..... 104  
 NF\_GET\_VARM\_type ..... 109  
 NF\_GET\_VARS\_type ..... 107  
 NF\_GET\_VLEN\_ELEMENT ..... 60  
 NF\_INQ Family ..... 21  
 NF\_INQ, typical use ..... 3  
 NF\_INQ\_ATT Family ..... 122  
 NF\_INQ\_ATTNAME, typical use ..... 3  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND ..... 53  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELD ..... 54  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELDDIM\_SIZES ..... 54  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELDINDEX ..... 54  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELDNAME ..... 54  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELDNDIMS ..... 54  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELDOFFSET ..... 54  
 NF\_INQ\_COMPOUND\_FIELDTYPE ..... 54

NF_INQ_COMPOUND_NAME .....	53	NF_PUT_VAR_ type .....	91
NF_INQ_COMPOUND_NFIELDS .....	53	NF_PUT_VAR1_ type .....	89
NF_INQ_COMPOUND_SIZE .....	53	NF_PUT_VARA_ type .....	93
NF_INQ_DIM Family .....	41	NF_PUT_VARM_ type .....	98
NF_INQ_DIMID .....	40	NF_PUT_VARS_ type .....	95
NF_INQ_DIMID, typical use .....	2	NF_PUT_VLEN_ELEMENT .....	59
NF_INQ_DIMIDS .....	31	NF_REDEF .....	17
NF_INQ_ENUM .....	65	NF_RENAME_ATT .....	127
NF_INQ_ENUM_IDENT .....	66	NF_RENAME_DIM .....	42
nf_inq_enum_member .....	65	NF_RENAME_VAR .....	115
NF_INQ_FORMAT .....	21	NF_SET_DEFAULT_FORMAT .....	26
NF_INQ_GRP_PARENT .....	35, 36	NF_SET_FILL .....	24
NF_INQ_GRPNAME .....	33	NF_STRError .....	8
NF_INQ_GRPNAME_FULL .....	34	NF_SYNC .....	22
NF_INQ_GRPNAME_LEN .....	32	NF_VAR_PAR_ACCESS .....	116
NF_INQ_GRPs .....	30	NF_VAR_PAR_ACCESS, example .....	116
NF_INQ_LIBVERS .....	8		
NF_INQ_NATTS .....	21	<b>O</b>	
NF_INQ_NCID .....	29	opaque type .....	61
NF_INQ_NDIMS .....	21		
NF_INQ_NVARS .....	21	<b>R</b>	
NF_INQ_OPAQUE .....	62	reading dataset with unknown names .....	3
NF_INQ_TYPE .....	46	reading datasets with known names .....	2
NF_INQ_TYPEID .....	46		
NF_INQ_TYPEIDS .....	45	<b>U</b>	
NF_INQ_UNLIMDIM .....	21	user defined types .....	45
NF_INQ_USER_TYPE .....	48	user defined types, overview .....	45
NF_INQ_VAR family .....	88		
NF_INQ_VAR_CHUNKING .....	74	<b>V</b>	
NF_INQ_VAR_DEFLATE .....	80	variable length array type, overview .....	45
NF_INQ_VAR_ENDIAN .....	86	variable length arrays .....	56
NF_INQ_VAR_FILL .....	78	variables, adding .....	4
NF_INQ_VAR_FLETCHER32 .....	84	variables, checksum .....	82
NF_INQ_VAR_SZIP .....	81	variables, chunking .....	72
NF_INQ_VARID .....	87	variables, contiguous .....	72
NF_INQ_VARID, typical use .....	2	variables, endian .....	85
NF_INQ_VARIDS .....	30	variables, fill .....	77
NF_INSERT_ARRAY_COMPOUND .....	51	variables, fletcher32 .....	82
NF_INSERT_COMPOUND .....	50	variables, setting deflate .....	78
NF_INSERT_ENUM .....	63	VLEN .....	56
NF_OPEN .....	13	VLEN, defining .....	57, 58
NF_OPEN_PAR .....	15		
NF_PUT_ATT, typical use .....	1		
NF_PUT_ATT_ type .....	119		
NF_PUT_VAR, typical use .....	1		