

Package ‘ncmeta’

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Title Straightforward 'NetCDF' Metadata

Version 0.0.2

Description Extract metadata from 'NetCDF' data sources, these can be files, file handles or servers. This package leverages and extends the lower level functions of the 'RNetCDF' package providing a consistent set of functions that all return data frames. We introduce named concepts of 'grid', 'axis' and 'source' which are all meaningful entities without formal definition in the 'NetCDF' library <<https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>>. 'RNetCDF' matches the library itself with only the named concepts of 'variables', 'dimensions' and 'attributes'. 'ncmeta' provides a required framework for the in-development 'tidync' project <<https://github.com/hypertidy/tidync>>.

Depends R (>= 3.3.0)

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 6.0.1

Imports dplyr, rlang, RNetCDF, tibble

Suggests testthat, covr

URL <https://github.com/hypertidy/ncmeta>

BugReports <https://github.com/hypertidy/ncmeta/issues>

ByteCompile TRUE

NeedsCompilation no

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R topics documented:

ncmeta	2
nc_att	3
nc_atts	4
nc_axes	4
nc_axis	5
nc_dim	6
nc_dims	6
nc_grids	7
nc_inq	8
nc_meta	9
nc_sources	10
nc_var	10
nc_vars	11
Index	12

ncmeta	<i>ncmeta: straightforward NetCDF metadata</i>
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Description

ncmeta provides a consistent set of tools to obtain metadata from NetCDF. NetCDF is 'Network Common Data Form' <https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>. These functions are generics, allowing methods to be written for various providers so that everything can work from a common basis. All functions return a data frame.

Details

Each function responds to a character file name or data source (i.e. URL) or to a connection of a given class, this is so a source connection may be created a minimal number of times and kept open while a number of entities are queried.

Each "given" entity may be referred to by index (0-based) or name, just as it would be by the NetCDF API and by the two R wrapper providers RNetCDF and ncdf4.

nc_att	find the given attribute of a given variable
nc_atts	find all attributes, of all variables and globals
nc_axes	find all the instances of dimensions
nc_axis	find given instance of a dimension (1-based)
nc_dim	find the given dimension of a source (0-based)
nc_dims	find all the dimensions of a source
nc_grids	find the grids (sets of dimensions) of a source
nc_inq	inquire about a source (i.e. number of dimensions, number of variables, number of global attributes and present
nc_meta	find all metadata for a source (runs all other functions)
nc_sources	tags a record of a source and its "access time"
nc_var	find a given variable (0-based)
nc_vars	find the variables of a source

nc_att	<i>NetCDF attributes</i>
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Description

Variable attributes are number 0:(n-1). Global attributes are indexed by -1 or the label "NC_GLOBAL".

Usage

```
nc_att(x, variable, attribute, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'  
nc_att(x, variable, attribute, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'  
nc_att(x, variable, attribute, ...)
```

Arguments

x	or file handle
variable	name or index (zero based) of variable
attribute	name or index (zero based) of attribute
...	ignored

Details

nc_inq includes the number of global attributes nc_vars includes the number of variable attributes

Value

data frame of attribute

Examples

```
f <- system.file("extdata", "S2008001.L3m_DAY_CHL_chlor_a_9km.nc", package = "ncmeta")  
nc_att(f, 0, 0)
```

nc_atts	<i>NetCDF attributes</i>
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Description

All attributes in the file, globals are treated as if they belong to variable 'NC_GLOBAL'.

Usage

```
nc_atts(x, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
```

```
nc_atts(x, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'
```

```
nc_atts(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	filename or handle
...	ignored

Value

data frame of attributes

Examples

```
f <- system.file("extdata", "S2008001.L3m_DAY_CHL_chlor_a_9km.nc", package = "ncmeta")
nc_atts(f)
```

nc_axes	<i>NetCDF axes</i>
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Description

An axis is an instance of a dimension.

Usage

```
nc_axes(x, variables = NULL, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'
```

```
nc_axes(x, variables = NULL, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
```

```
nc_axes(x, variables = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

x	NetCDF source
variables	names of vars to query
...	ignored

Details

Each data source has a set of dimensions available for use by variables. Each axis is a 1-dimensional instance.

nc_axis	<i>NetCDF axes</i>
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Description

An axis is an instance of a dimension.

Usage

```
nc_axis(x, i)

## S3 method for class 'character'
nc_axis(x, i)

## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
nc_axis(x, i)
```

Arguments

x	NetCDF source
i	index of axis (1-based, 0 is "empty")

Details

Each data source has a set of dimensions available for use by variables. Each axis is a 1-dimensional instance.

nc_dim	<i>NetCDF variables Obtain information about a single dimension by index.</i>
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Description

NetCDF variables Obtain information about a single dimension by index.

Usage

```
nc_dim(x, i, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'
```

```
nc_dim(x, i, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
```

```
nc_dim(x, i, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'ncdf4'
```

```
nc_dim(x, i, ...)
```

Arguments

x	filename or handle
i	index of dimension (zero based)
...	ignored

See Also

nc_vars to obtain information about all dimensions, nc_inq for an overview of the file

nc_dims	<i>NetCDF dimension</i>
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Description

Get information about the dimensions in a NetCDF source.

Usage

```
nc_dims(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'character'
nc_dims(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
nc_dims(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'ncdf4'
nc_dims(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	file address or handle
...	ignored

nc_grids	<i>NetCDF grids</i>
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Description

A grid is a discretized space, defined by a set of dimensions. These are the spaces used by one or more variables in a source. Traditional summaries are organized by variable, but when organized by space or grid we can treat multiple variables together using standard database techniques.

Usage

```
nc_grids(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'character'
nc_grids(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
nc_grids(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	NetCDF source
...	ignored

Details

Each data source has a set of dimensions available for use by variables. Each grid is an n-dimensional space available for use by 0, 1 or more variables. A grid only really exists if variable is defined for it, and 'grid' is an implicit entity not an explicit part of the NetCDF API definition. The Unidata pages refer to "shape", which is more or less what we mean by "grid".

nc_inq	<i>File info</i>
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Description

Get information about a NetCDF data source, may be a file path, or a RNetCDF file handle, or an OpenDAP/Thredds server address.

Usage

```
nc_inq(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
nc_inq(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'character'
nc_inq(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	filename or handle
...	ignored

Examples

```
## Not run:
f <- raadfiles:::cmip5_files()$fullname[1]
nc_inq(f)
nc_var(f, 0)
nc_dim(f, 0)

## End(Not run)

f <- system.file("extdata", "S2008001.L3m_DAY_CHL_chlor_a_9km.nc", package = "ncmeta")
nc_inq(f)
nc_var(f, 0)
nc_dim(f, 0)

nc_vars(f)
nc_dims(f)

## Not run:
## thredds (see rerddap)
u <- "https://upwell.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/taledap/FRDCPSTrawlLHHaulCatch"
nc_inq(u)
# A tibble: 1 x 5
#ndims nvars ngatts unlimdimid
#<dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <lgl>
```



```
# 1 2 18 37 NA
# ... with 1 more variables: filename <chr>

## End(Not run)
```

nc_meta

Top level NetCDF metadata.

Description

This function exists to maintain the open connection while all dimension, variable, and attribute metadata is extracted.

Usage

```
nc_meta(x, ...)
```

S3 method for class 'NetCDF'

```
nc_meta(x, ...)
```

S3 method for class 'character'

```
nc_meta(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	data source address, file name or handle
...	ignored

Details

This function is pretty ambitious, and will send nearly any string to the underlying NetCDF library other than "", which immediately generates an error. This should be robust, but might present fairly obscure error messages from the underlying library.

Examples

```
f <- system.file("extdata", "S2008001.L3m_DAY_CHL_chlor_a_9km.nc", package = "ncmeta")
nc_meta(f)
```

Not run:

```
u <- "https://upwell.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/taledap/FRDCPSTrawlLHHaulCatch"
nc_meta(u)
```

End(Not run)

nc_sources	<i>NetCDF sources</i>
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Description

A record of file, URL, or any data source with NetCDF.

Usage

```
nc_sources(x, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'
```

```
nc_sources(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	data source string
...	ignored

nc_var	<i>NetCDF variable</i>
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Description

Return a data frame about the variable at index i.

Usage

```
nc_var(x, i)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'
```

```
nc_var(x, i)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'
```

```
nc_var(x, i)
```

Arguments

x	file name or handle
i	variable index (zero based)

Value

data frame of variable information

See Also

nc_vars to obtain information about all variables, nc_inq for an overview of the file

nc_vars	<i>NetCDF variables</i>
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Description

Generate a table of all variables.

Usage

```
nc_vars(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'character'  
nc_vars(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'NetCDF'  
nc_vars(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	filename or handle
...	ignored currently

Value

data frame of variable information

Index

[nc_att](#), [2, 3](#)
[nc_atts](#), [2, 4](#)
[nc_axes](#), [2, 4](#)
[nc_axis](#), [2, 5](#)
[nc_dim](#), [2, 6](#)
[nc_dims](#), [2, 6](#)
[nc_grids](#), [2, 7](#)
[nc_inq](#), [2, 8](#)
[nc_meta](#), [2, 9](#)
[nc_sources](#), [2, 10](#)
[nc_var](#), [2, 10](#)
[nc_vars](#), [2, 11](#)
[ncmeta](#), [2](#)
[ncmeta-package \(ncmeta\)](#), [2](#)