

Interfacing With Common Resources: NetCDF

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Introduction

ncdf R package

Resources

Network Common Data Form (NetCDF)

Set of data formats, programming interfaces software libraries to read/write scientific data

- ▶ NetCDF software library
 - ▶ NetCDF version 3
 - ▶ NetCDF4
- ▶ R packages
 - ▶ ncdf
 - ▶ Warning: character array implementation is inefficient.
 - ▶ ncdf4
 - ▶ Multiple unlimited dimensions
 - ▶ Data compression
 - ▶ Not available on Windows

NetCDF Model

- ▶ Variables : N-dimensional arrays of data: char, byte, int, double
- ▶ Dimensions
 - ▶ Axes of data arrays
 - ▶ Name, length
 - ▶ Unlimited dimension
- ▶ Attributes : Annotate Variables with meta data

Using ncdf R package

- ▶ Define dimensions

```
> sampDim <- dim.def.ncdf("Sample", "id", seq_len(NROWS))  
> snpDim <- dim.def.ncdf("SNP", "id", seq_len(NCOLS))
```

- ▶ Define variable

```
> snpDat <- var.def.ncdf("Genotype", units = "", dim = 1L,  
+                        missval = - 1L, prec = "byte")
```

Using ncdf R package

- ▶ Create file, write variable

```
> nc <- create.ncdf("myFile.nc", snpDat)
> put.var.ncdf(nc, "Genotype", mat)
> close(nc)
```

Using ncdf R package

- ▶ Read variable from file

```
> nc <- open.ncdf("myFile.nc")  
> myVar <- get.var.ncdf(nc, "Genotype")  
> close(nc)
```

- ▶ Read slices of data

```
> nc <- open.ncdf("myFile.nc")  
> sliceRow <- get.var.ncdf(nc, "Genotype", start = c(30  
> sliceRow <- get.var.ncdf(nc, "Genotype", start = c(1,  
> close(nc)
```

Resources

- ▶ <http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ncdf/ncdf.pdf>
- ▶ <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/docs/netcdf-tutorial.html>