

[netcdf-documentation.pdf](#)

## About NetCDF

NetCDF (Network Common Data Form) is an interface for array-orientated data access and a library that supports the interface. It has 3 components:

- variables store the data
- dimensions give relevant dimension information for the variables
- attributes provide auxiliary information about the variables or dataset itself

NetCDF is used within the atmospheric and oceanic science communities and is network transparent, allowing for it to be accessed by computers that store integers, characters and floating-point numbers.

Iris supports NetCDF files through reading, writing and handling. Iris implements a model based on the CF conventions, giving a format-agnostic interface for working with data.

[Find further support on using Iris with NetCDF files at https://scitools-iris.readthedocs.io/en/stable/](https://scitools-iris.readthedocs.io/en/stable/)