

# Exercise: Basic plotting

**AIM:** To introduce you simple plotting options using the VCS module

## Issues covered:

- VCS
- Annotating plots
- Graphic methods
- Saving as a GIF file

## Instructions

1. Extract the relative humidity ('r') from the file:  
'~/my\_cdat\_files/data/rh1.nc'



Try just plotting the data.

***The “vcs” module is required for any plotting. Once you have created a canvas using the “init” function you can then “plot”, “clear”, “close” etc.***

3. Clear the canvas. Now convert the canvas to portrait view and plot the longitudes (30E to 180E).

4. Plot the same data using the “isoline” graphic method.

5. Clear the canvas and plot the vertical profile of relative humidity at 30E and 30N.



***You’ll need to define the vertical profile using the “squeeze” argument. Then try using the “xyvsy” graphic method.***

6. Re-plot with the following annotations:  
units="Percentage (%)"; file\_comment="Experimental data"; long\_name="Pressure level Relative Humidity"

7. Save this file as a GIF image called:  
'~/my\_cdat\_files/output/rh1\_plot.gif'