- 1. Use the choose-file GUI to open an input file. Instructions can be displayed by pressing this GUI's own help button. Opening the file should result in the display of a *file structure tree*.
- 2. Use this tree as follows to select either a variable/SDS or an attribute. (The default selection is a variable/SDS with the maximum number of elements.)
 - Click on a variable/SDS to select it and display the spatial sampling widget.
 - Click on a '+' to display attribute names.
 - Click on an attribute to select it and display its value.
- 3. The spatial sampling widget allows you to select part of a variable/SDS. (The entire variable/SDS is selected by default.)

Each dimension is represented by a row containing one or two lines. The first line represents subscript values. If a coordinate variable exists then it is represented on a second line. Change a subscript using any of the following:

- Drag the slider along the scale widget. This is convenient for coarse adjustment.
- Click on the spinbox arrows or scale troughs.
- Press the keyboard up/down keys.
- Use the keyboard to enter numbers. Fractional subscript values can be used to produce magnification.
- On an image, drag the mouse to define a bounding box.
- Press the Dimension button to restore all defaults.
- Press the From, To or Step column heading button to restore defaults in a column.
- Press the row heading buttons to toggle a row between defaults and saved values.

The values selected along a dimension are defined as follows:

- If step > 0 then from, to and step define an arithmetic progression.
- If step = 0 and expression is blank then use single value from.
- If step = 0 and expression is not blank then use this expression.
- 4. The following buttons along the bottom are used to select an action:

Range: Display minimum and maximum value.

Text: Display start of data as text.

Graph: Use plot_nao to display data as XY graph(s).

Image: Use plot_nao to display data as 2D image(s).

Animate: Animate window-sequence produced by Graph or Image.

NAO: Create Numeric Array Object.

Re-read: Force a read (e.g. after rewriting the file).

Select Raw mode if you want the following attributes to be ignored: scale_factor, add_offset, valid_min, valid_max, valid_range.