for wintertime users

April 17, 2023

1 NetCDF Tutorial

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This tutorial was given at the meeting of the Numerical Ecology in Oceanography Laboratory (NEOLab), Université Laval, on April 21, 2023.

This Jupyter notebook is part of the project for_wintertime_users containing documentation and examples on how to use the outputs of the default simulation EXP-0 described in Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted).

The documentation and examples are available on:

https://github.com/maximebenoitgagne/for wintertime users/tree/main.

The original project of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted) can be found on:

https://github.com/maximebenoitgagne/wintertime/tree/v1.5.

2 Definitions

NetCDF file for a region: A NetCDF file for many latitudes and many longitudes, for example, a NetCDF file for the whole Baffin Bay.

NetCDF file for a specific location: A NetCDF file for only one latitude and one longitude, for example, a NetCDF file for the location of an ice camp.

Results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted): NetCDF files containing the results of the default simulation of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted). The simulation was adapted to the location of the Qikiqtarjuaq sea ice camp in western Baffin Bay (67.4797°N, -63.7895°E) in 2016 during the Green Edge sea ice camp mission. The model was run with a spinup of 10 years to stabilise the system. Use the data of that tenth year. The dimensions of the data are the depth steps and the time steps.

3 What you will learn in this tutorial

- Find the results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted).
- Understand the structure of the results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted).
- Explore the structure of a NetCDF file for a specific location with Panoply.
- Plot a NetCDF file for a specific location with Panoply.

- Read a NetCDF file for a specific location with Python.*
- Export a NetCDF file for a specific location into a comma-separated values (CSV) file with Python.*
- Plot a variable from the results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted) with Python.*
- Find more examples of Python scripts reading the results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted).*

Note: The goals with an asterisk (*) have the following prerequisites:

- Knowledge of Anaconda.
- Basic knowledge of Python.

4 What you will not learn in this tutorial

- Anaconda.
- Python.
- Use a NetCDF file for a specific location when the metadata doesn't contain sufficient information to retrieve the depth steps and the time steps of the file. Actually, the only solution would be to ask someone who knows the answer, for example, the human author of the files.
- Export a NetCDF file for a specific location into a CSV file with Panoply.
- Write a NetCDF file.
- Read a NetCDF file for a specific location in R.
- Use a NetCDF file for a region.

5 Installation steps

These installation steps were tested for MacOS X 10.13 (High Sierra).

- Install Panoply (https://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/panoply/download/).
- Install Anaconda for Python 3 as described on https://datacarpentry.org/python-ecology-lesson/setup.html:
 - Go to https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution.
 - Click Download.
 - Double-click the graphical installer .pkg file.
 - Follow the instructions. Select the default settings.
 - Verify the installation by entering the following command in the Terminal (Launchpad icon in the Dock, type Terminal, click Terminal):

```
conda --help
```

• Enter the following commands in the Terminal. The creation of the conda environment can take approximately 15 minutes.

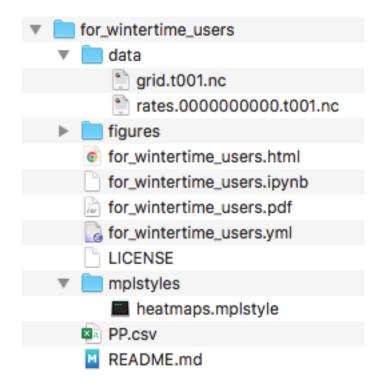
```
git clone git@github.com:maximebenoitgagne/for_wintertime_users.git cd for_wintertime_users/
conda env create -f for_wintertime_users.yml
conda activate for_wintertime_users
jupyter notebook
```

Once the environment for_wintertime_users is created, the Jupyter notebook can be launched simply with:

cd for_wintertime_users/
conda activate for_wintertime_users
jupyter notebook

6 Find the data

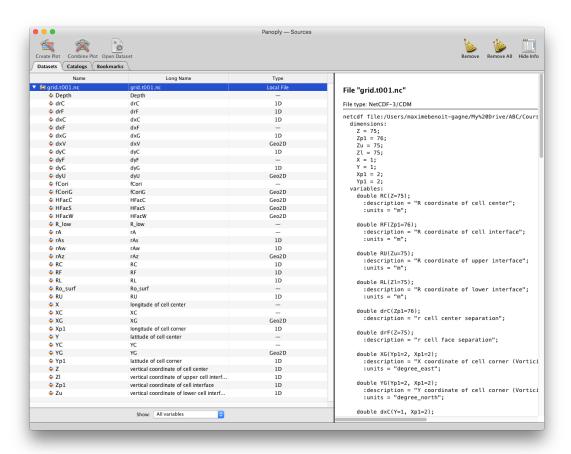
The results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted) are available on https://github.com/maximebenoitgagne/wintertime/tree/v1.5/data/DataS8_output_mitgcm/exp0. Two relatively small files of these results are also in the directory data of this project.



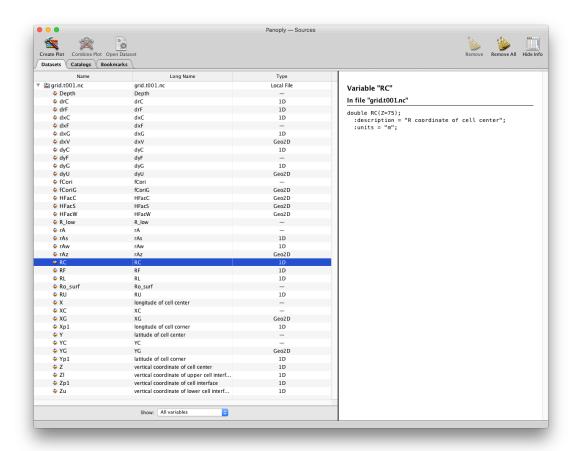
7 Read a NetCDF file with Panoply

Panoply is a graphical user interface (GUI) tool to explore and plot NetCDF files. Steps

- Click on Panoply.
- Select grid.t001.nc.

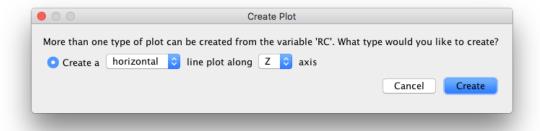


• Select the variable RC.

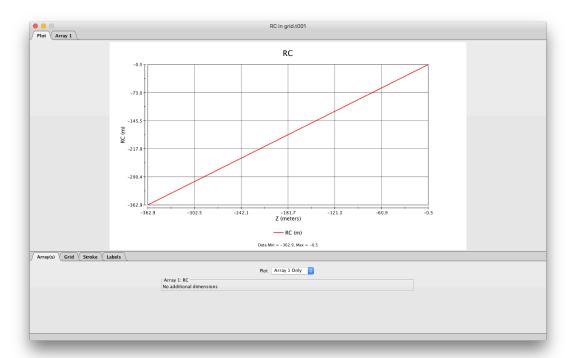


We see that the variable RC in grid.t001.nc contains the values of the 75 depth steps.

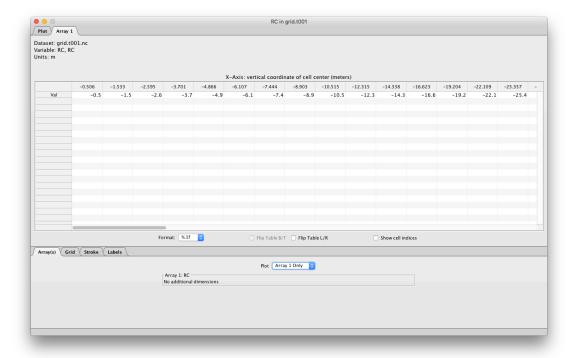
• Double-click on RC.



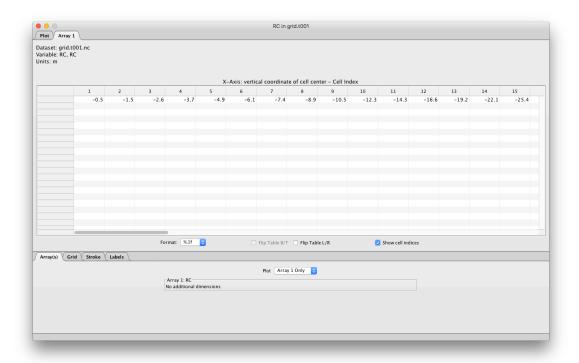
• Click Create.



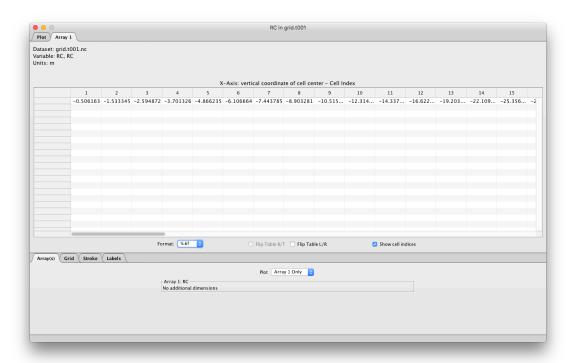
• Select tab Array 1.



• Check Show cell indices.



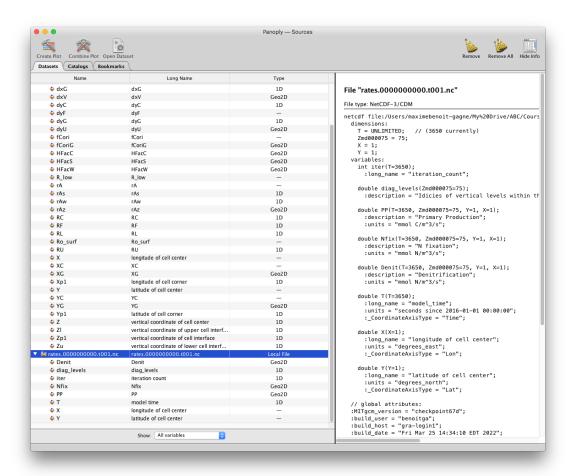
• Select Format %.6f.



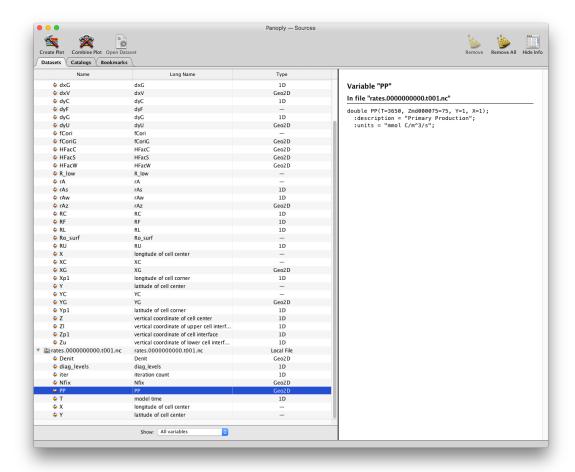
We now see explicitely the values of the 75 depth steps. Note that the vertical grid is irregular. We have to take that into account if we want to transform units by m^{-3} into units by m^{-2} .

We will now open another NetCDF file. We will open rates.00000000000.t001.nc.

• File > Open > rates.0000000000.t001.nc.



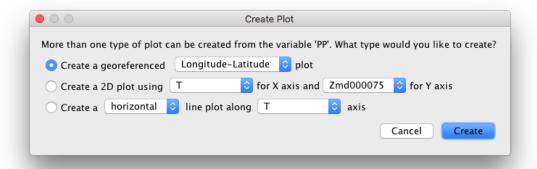
• Select the variable PP.



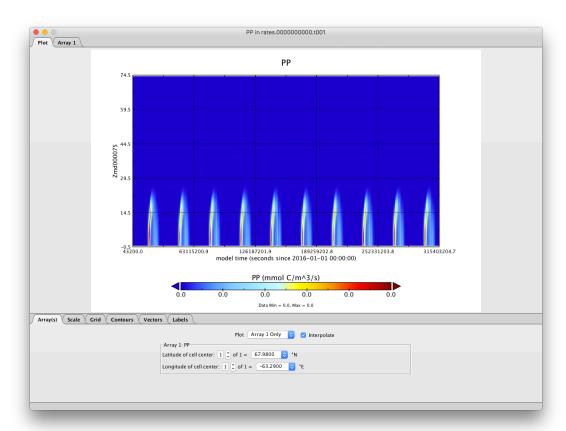
We see that the variable PP is the primary production in mmol C $\rm m^{-3}~s^{-1}$. The dimension T is the daily time steps over 10 years (10*365=3650). The dimension Zmd000075 is the 75 depth steps.

8 Plot a NetCDF file with Panoply

• Double-click on PP.



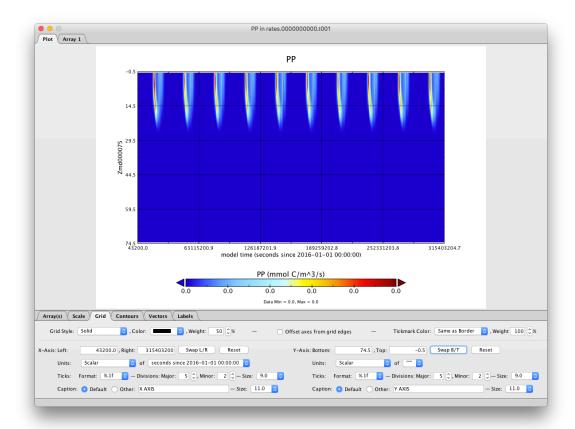
- Check Create a 2D plot using T for X axis and Zmd000075 for Y axis.
- Click Create.



Note that the Y axis contains the indices of the depths and not the values of the depths. The values of the depths are not in the file rates.0000000000.nc. They are only in the variable RC of grid.t001.nc.

Note also that the depths on the Y axis are in the reverse order. This is because the first depth index is at the water surface and is shown at the bottom of the plot. We would rather show it at the top of the plot.

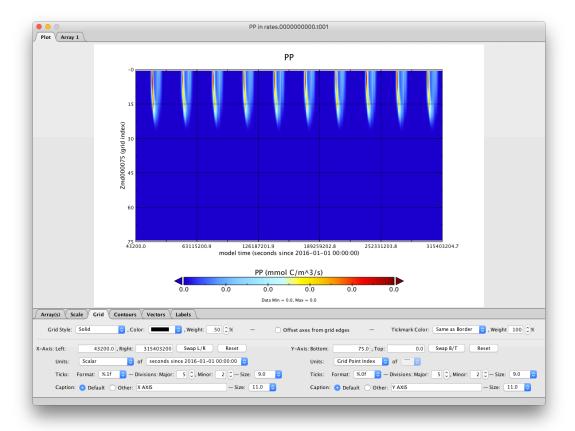
• Grid > Swap B/T.



We now see the primary productivity over 10 years. We can see the 10 yearly spring blooms. It worths noting again that the Y axis contains the indices of the depths from 0 to 74 and not the values of the depths.

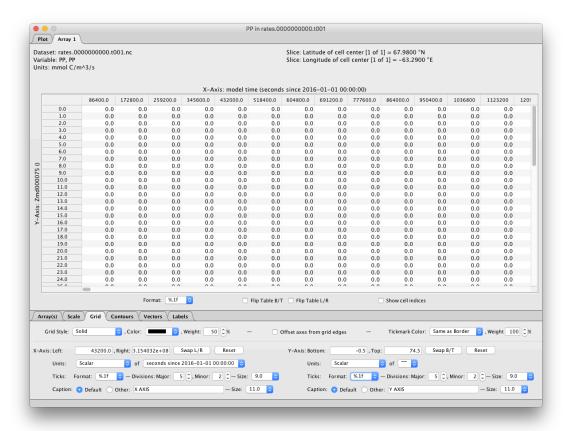
To make it clearer, we will show the indices of the depths from 1 to 75 instead of 0 to 74. In order to do that:

- Y-Axis: Units: Grid Point Index.
- Y-Axis: Ticks: Format %.0f.
- Swap B/T.

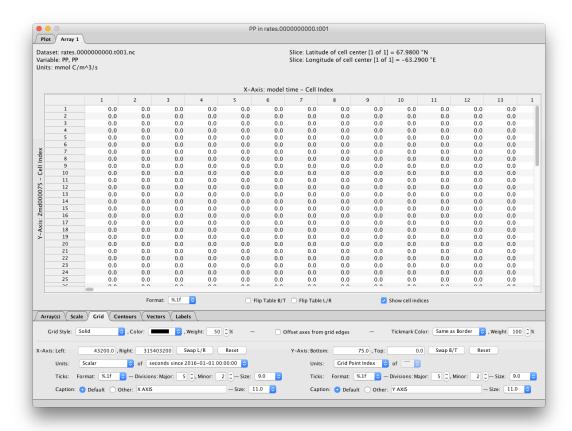


Verify.

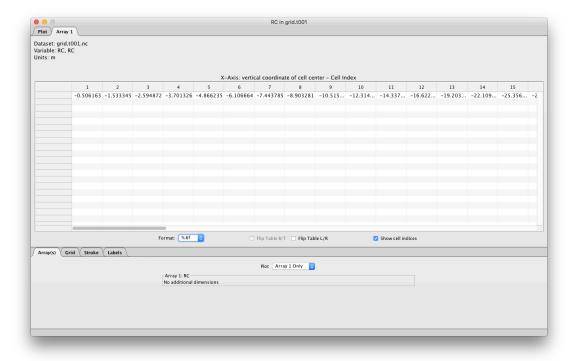
• Select tab Array 1.



• Show cell indices.

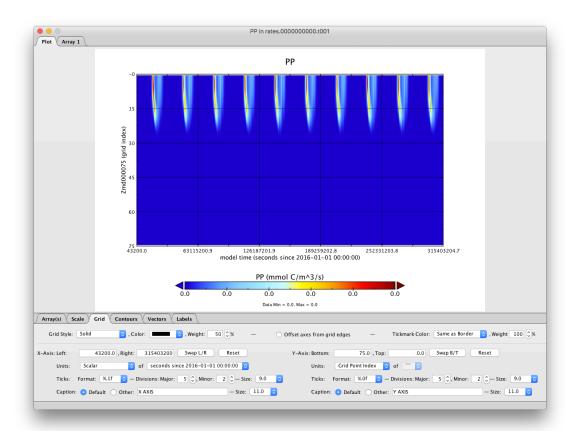


We will retrieve the value of the depth at the depth index 15 using the variable RC in grid.t001.nc.



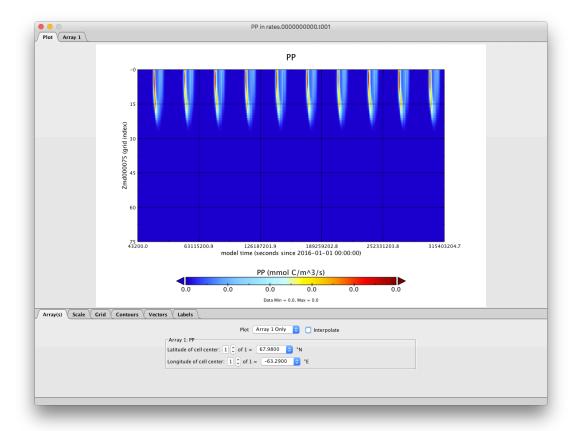
We see that the value of the depth at the depth index 15 is 25.356 m.

• Select the tab Plot.



To make the rows corresponding to each depth clearer:

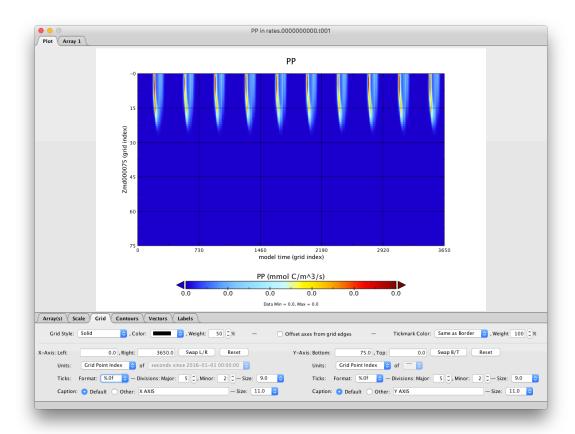
- Select the tab Array(s).
- Uncheck Interpolate.



The fifteenth row, just above the tick 15 on the Y-Axis, corresponds to a depth of 25.356 m. We will now make the X-Axis clearer by showing the indices of the time steps.

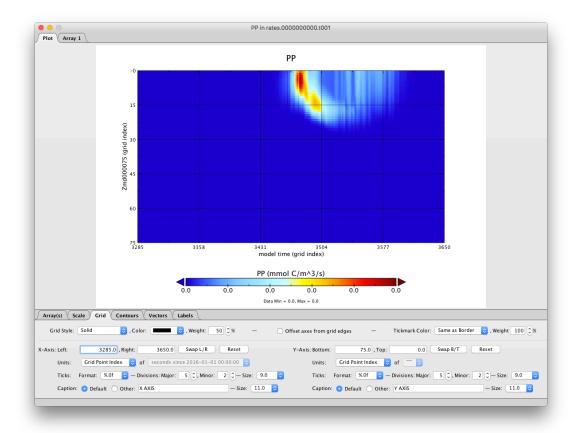
• Select the tab Grid.

• X-Axis: Units: Grid Point Index.



The X axis is now the index of the day over the 10 years of the spinup. We want to select only the tenth year. The indices of the X axis will be 365*9=3285 (inclusive) to 365*10=3650 (exclusive).

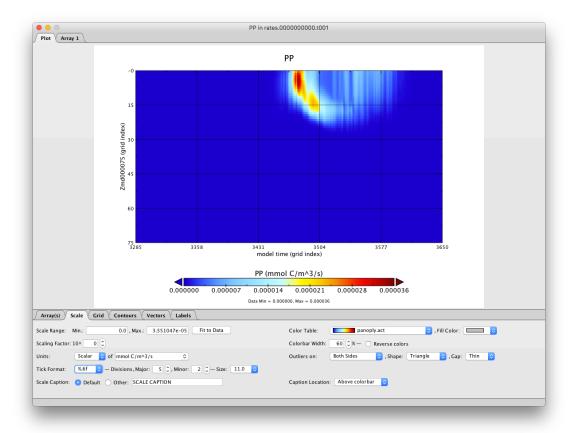
• X-Axis: Left: 3285.



It worths noting that the selection of the tenth year in the Grid tab affects only the plot in the tab Plot. It doesn't affect the array in the tab Array 1. The array in the tab Array 1 will continue to contain the values for the 10 years.

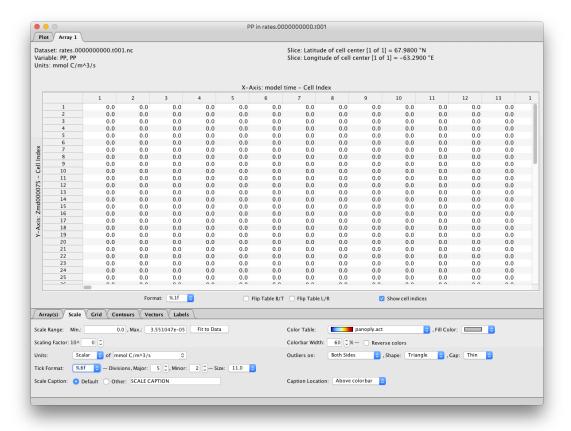
We can improve the precision of the colour bar:

- Select tab Scale.
- Tick Format: %.6f.



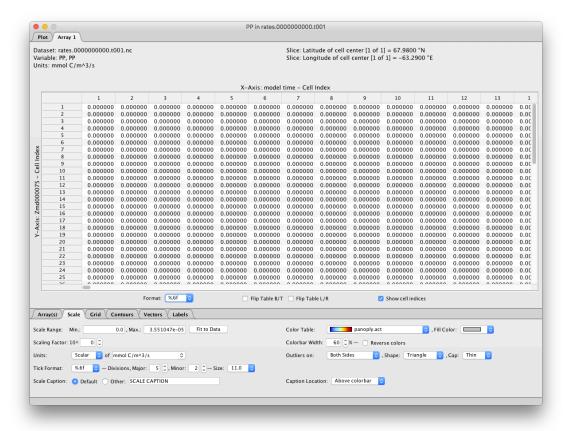
We can find a specific numeric value in the tab Array 1.

• Select tab Array 1.



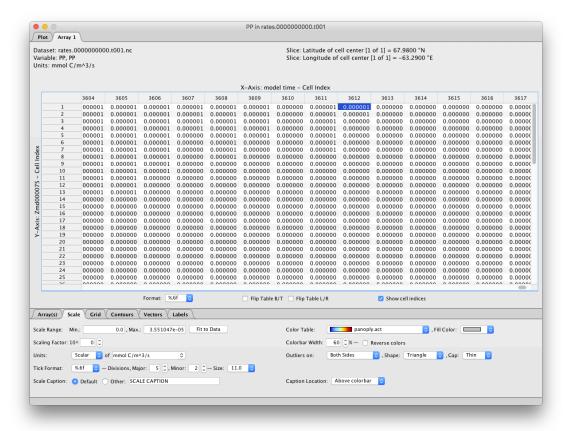
We can improve the precision.

• Format: %.6f.



We now see explicitly the values of the 75*3650 primary productivities.

Move the horizontal scroll bar to the right to see some values above 0.



9 Read a NetCDF file with Python

9.1 First, load libraries

[3]: for i,v in enumerate(last_year):

print(i,v)

```
[1]: import netCDF4 import numpy as np
```

9.2 Select year

```
[2]: nbyears=10
last_year=np.arange(365*(nbyears-1),365*(nbyears))
last_year.shape
[2]: (365,)
```

- 0 3285
- 1 3286
- 2 3287
- 3 3288
- 4 3289
- 5 3290
- 6 3291
- 7 3292
- 8 3293
- 9 3294
- 0 0201
- 10 3295
- 11 3296
- 12 3297
- 13 3298
- 14 3299
- 15 3300
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- 17 3302
- 18 3303
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116 3401

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- 299 3584
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- 321 3606
- 322 3607 323 3608
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```

9.3 Grid

See the documentation on the grid of the output of the MITgcm model: https://darwin3.readthedocs.io/en/latest/getting_started/getting_started.html#grid.

RC is the r coordinate of cell center (in m).

```
[4]: gridfile='data/grid.t001.nc'

[5]: ncfile=gridfile
    variable='RC'
    try:
        # open the netCDF file for reading
        fh=netCDF4.Dataset(ncfile,'r')
    except:
        raise IOError("File not found: {}.".format(ncfile))
    try:
```

```
# read the data in variable named v
RC=fh.variables[variable][:]
except:
    raise IOError("Variable {} not found in {}.".format(variable, ncfile))
fh.close()
```

We switch sign to have positive depths.

```
[6]: # swith sign
RC=-RC
RC.shape
```

[6]: (75,)

```
[7]: for i,v in enumerate(RC): print(i,v)
```

- 0 0.5061625
- 1 1.5333449999999997
- 2 2.594871999999996
- 3 3.7013264999999995
- 4 4.866235
- 5 6.106664499999999
- 6 7.443784999999999
- 7 8.903281
- 8 10.5154235
- 9 12.314566000000001
- 10 14.337813500000001
- 11 16.6226945
- 12 19.203892000000003
- 13 22.109410500000003
- 14 25.356929
- 15 28.9512475
- 16 32.883559500000004
- 17 37.1327755
- 18 41.6684945
- 19 46.454799
- 20 51.453981
- 21 56.6295605
- 22 61.9483055
- 23 67.381287
- 24 72.9041905
- 25 78.4971245
- 26 84.1441395
- 27 89.832647
- 28 95.5528315
- 29 101.2971055
- 30 107.0596445

- 31 112.836004
- 32 118.622804
- 33 124.417478
- 34 130.2180915
- 35 136.02317200000002
- 36 141.8316135
- 37 147.6425875
- 38 153.4554685
- 39 159.269784
- 40 165.08516799999998
- 41 170.9013685
- 42 176.718179
- 43 182.5354395
- 44 188.35304349999998
- 45 194.17090699999997
- 46 199.9889689999997
- 47 205.80717599999997
- 48 211.62548949999996
- 49 217.44388699999996
- 50 223.26235349999996
- 51 229.08086549999996
- 52 234.89940799999997
- 53 240.71797349999997
- 54 246.53655399999997
- 34 240.330333*33333333*
- 55 252.3551574999999656 258.17376899999994
- 57 263.9923879999995
- 58 269.8110219999999
- 59 275.6296559999999
- 60 281.4482899999999
- 61 287.26692399999985
- 62 293.08557349999984
- 63 298.90422299999983
- 64 304.7228569999998
- 65 310.5415064999998
- 66 316.3601559999998
- 67 322.17878999999976
- 68 327.99743949999976
- 69 333.81608899999975
- 70 339.63473849999974
- 71 345.45338799999973
- 72 351.2720374999997
- 73 357.0906869999997
- 74 362.9093209999997

9.4 Primary productivity

```
[8]: ppfile='data/rates.000000000.t001.nc'
     PP is the primary production (in mmol C m^{-3} s<sup>-1</sup>).
 [9]: ncfile=ppfile
      variable='PP'
      try:
          # open the netCDF file for reading
          fh=netCDF4.Dataset(ncfile, 'r')
          raise IOError("File not found: {}.".format(ncfile))
      try:
          # read the data in variable named v
          array2d idepth iT ppfull=fh.variables[variable][:]
      except:
          raise IOError("Variable {} not found in {}.".format(variable, ncfile))
      fh.close()
      array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull.shape
 [9]: (3650, 75, 1, 1)
[10]: array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull=array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull.squeeze()
      array2d idepth iT ppfull.shape
[10]: (3650, 75)
[11]: array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull=array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull.transpose()
      array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull.shape
[11]: (75, 3650)
[12]: array2d_idepth_iT_pp=array2d_idepth_iT_ppfull[:,last_year]
      array2d_idepth_iT_pp.shape
[12]: (75, 365)
```

The row is the index of the depth (0-based). The column is the index of the day of year of the tenth year (0-based).

10 Export a NetCDF file into a CSV file with Python

Suppose we want the comma-separated values (CSV) file PP.csv in a wide form (not data matrix form, a.k.a. tidy form) with 366 columns. The first column is the depth in m. The 365 following columns are the days of year. The first row is the headers. The 75 following rows are the depths.

```
depth_m,doy_001,doy_002,...,doy_365
     0.5061625,...
     362.9093209999997,...
     First, load libraries.
[13]: import pandas as pd
[14]: df_depth=pd.DataFrame({'depth_m':RC})
      df_depth
[14]:
             depth_m
            0.506162
      0
      1
            1.533345
      2
            2.594872
      3
            3.701326
      4
            4.866235
      . .
         339.634738
      70
      71
          345.453388
      72 351.272037
      73 357.090687
      74 362.909321
      [75 rows x 1 columns]
[15]: df_PP_names=['doy_{0:03}'.format(i) for i in range(1,366)]
      df_PP_names
[15]: ['doy_001',
       'doy_002',
       'doy_003',
       'doy_004',
       'doy_005',
       'doy_006',
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[16]: df_PP=pd.DataFrame(array2d_idepth_iT_pp)
      df_PP.columns=df_PP_names
      df_PP
[16]:
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[17]: df=pd.concat([df_depth,df_PP],axis='columns')
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[17]:

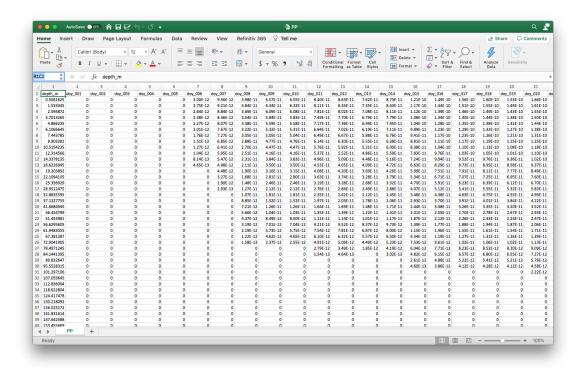
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[75 rows x 366 columns]

```
[18]: outfile='PP.csv'
df.to_csv(outfile,index=False)
```



11 Plot a NetCDF file with Python

First, load libraries.

```
[19]: import matplotlib as mpl import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
[20]: plt.close("all")
```

one_year_for_heatmaps is the coordinates on the X-Axis of the corners of quadrilaterals of the pcolormesh (see https://matplotlib.org/stable/api/_as_gen/matplotlib.pyplot.pcolormesh.html).

```
[21]: one_year_for_heatmaps=np.arange(0,366)
```

RF_above100 is the coordinates on the Y-Axis of the corners of quadrilaterals of the pcolormesh. We decide to show only the top 100 m.

See the documentation on the grid of the output of the MITgcm model: https://darwin3.readthedocs.io/en/latest/getting_started/getting_started.html#grid.

RF is the r coordinate of cell interface (in m).

```
[22]: gridfile='data/grid.t001.nc'
```

```
[23]: ncfile=gridfile
  variable='RF'
  try:
    # open the netCDF file for reading
    fh=netCDF4.Dataset(ncfile,'r')
  except:
    raise IOError("File not found: {}.".format(ncfile))
  try:
    # read the data in variable named v
    RF=fh.variables[variable][:]
  except:
    raise IOError("Variable {} not found in {}.".format(variable, ncfile))
  fh.close()
```

We switch sign to have positive depths.

```
[24]: # swith sign
RF=-RF
RF.shape
```

[24]: (76,)

```
[25]: for i,v in enumerate(RF):
    print(i,v)
```

```
0 - 0.0
```

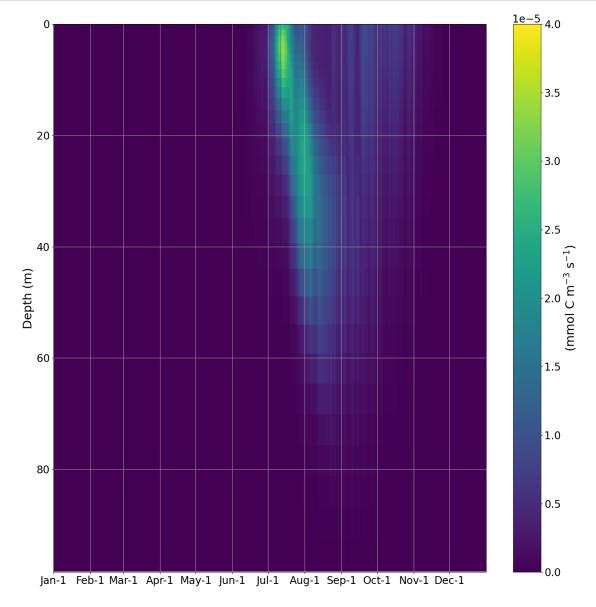
- 1 1.012325
- 2 2.0543649999999998
- 3 3.1353789999999995
- 4 4.267274
- 5 5.465196
- 6 6.748132999999999

- 7 8.139437
- 8 9.667124999999999
- 9 11.363722
- 10 13.26541
- 11 15.410217
- 12 17.835172
- 13 20.572612
- 14 23.646209
- 15 27.067649
- 16 30.834846
- 17 34.93227299999995
- 18 39.33327799999999
- 19 44.00371099999996
- 20 48.90588699999999
- 21 54.00207499999999
- 22 59.25704599999999
- 23 64.63956499999999
- 24 70.123009
- 25 75.685372
- 26 81.308877
- 27 86.979402
- 28 92.685892
- 29 98.419771
- 30 104.17444
- 31 109.944849
- 32 115.727159
- 33 121.518449
- 34 127.316507
- 35 133.119676
- 36 138.926668
- 37 144.736559
- 38 150.548616
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- 42 173.80964800000004
- 43 179.62671000000003
- 44 185.44416900000004
- 45 191.26191800000004
- 46 197.07989600000005
- 47 202.89804200000006
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- 49 214.53466900000004
- 50 220.35310500000003
- 51 226.17160200000004
- 52 231.99012900000002
- 53 237.80868700000002
- 54 243.62726

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     60 278.53897299999994
     61 284.3576069999999
     62 290.1762409999999
     63 295.9949059999999
     64 301.8135399999999
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     66 313.45083899999986
     67 319.26947299999983
     68 325.0881069999998
     69 330.9067719999998
     70 336.7254059999998
     71 342.5440709999998
     72 348.3627049999998
     73 354.181369999998
     74 360.00000399999976
     75 365.81863799999974
[26]: RF_above100=np.array(RF[RF<100])
[27]: def make_plots(ax):
          locs=np.array([0, 31, 59, 90, 120, 151,
                     181, 212, 243, 273, 304, 334])
          labels=('Jan-1','Feb-1','Mar-1','Apr-1','May-1','Jun-1',
                   'Jul-1', 'Aug-1', 'Sep-1', 'Oct-1', 'Nov-1', 'Dec-1')
          h=ax.pcolormesh(one_year_for_heatmaps,
                           RF above100,
                           array2d_idepth_iT_pp[0:(RF_above100.size)-1,:],
                           cmap='viridis',
                           vmin=0,
                           vmax=0.00004)
          ax.set_xticklabels([])
          ax.set_xticks(locs)
          ax.set_xticklabels(labels)
          ax.set_ylabel('Depth (m)')
          ax.set_ylim(98.5,0)
          ax.grid()
          cbar=plt.colorbar(h)
           cbar.set_label('(\$\backslash mathrm{ mmol} \ C\ m^{-3}\ s^{-1} \ )$)') 
          plt.tight_layout()
      with plt.style.context('mplstyles/heatmaps.mplstyle'):
```

```
# Plot
fig=plt.figure(figsize=(16, 16))
ax=fig.add_subplot(111)
make_plots(ax)

# --- SAVE
plt.savefig('figures/PP.png')
plt.show()
```



11.1 More examples in Python

Other examples of Python scripts reading the results of Benoît-Gagné et al. (submitted) are available on https://github.com/maximebenoitgagne/wintertime/blob/v1.5/wintertime.ipynb.