

Introduction

This is a brief introduction of the main request parameter syntax. We recommend that you get familiar with datasets and their availability using <http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/>

You can also get the request syntax using `***View MARS request***` feature.

Syntax

verb,

keyword1 = value1, ... = value2,

keywordN = valueN

- verb: action to be taken (e.g. retrieve, list, read)
- keyword: a known MARS variable, e.g. type or date
- value: value assigned to the keyword, e.g. Analysis or temperature

Retrieve example from "View MARS request": **MARS request** retrieve, stream=oper, levtype=sfc, param=165.128/41.128, dataset=interim, step=0, grid=0.75/0.75, time=00, date=2013-09-01/to/2013-09-30, type=an, class=ei **Python equivalence** `#!/usr/bin/env python from ecmwfapi import ECMWFDataServer server=ECMWFDataServer()`

```
server.retrieve({ 'dataset':"interim", 'time':"00", 'date':"2013-09-01/to/2013-09-30", 'step':"0", 'type':"an",  
'levtype':"sfc", 'param':"165.128/41.128", 'grid':"0.75/0.75", 'target':"interim201309.grib" })
```

Keyword

In the Dataset service there is an extra mandatory keyword called **dataset** which does not appear in normal MARS requests. Keyword definition dataset See [Available Datasets](#) format You can add **'format' : "netcdf"** to retrieve the data in NetCDF format.

the other possible MARS keywords are explained in the [Legacy MARS keywords](#) documentation.