Subject: Re: How to check if a file is indeed a NetCDF file? Posted by Liam Gumley on Mon, 19 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Paul van Delst wrote:

- > In trying to read NetCDF data files in IDL, I've discovered that the
- > NCDF_OPEN crashes on me if the file I ask it to open is not a nCDF file.
- > It crashes somewhat gracefully in that it tells me that NCDF_OPEN
- > couldn't open the file and the error # is 19. Does anyone out there know
- > how to use the IDL NCDF library to determine whether or not a file is in
- > NetCDF format? The fact that the most obvious solution (i.e. NCDF_OPEN
- > *returns* an error # rather than falling in a heap) doesn't work like I
- > would expect doesn't make me too hopeful.

How about this (styled along the lines of HDF_ISHDF)?

FUNCTION NCDF_ISNCDF, FILENAME

:- Set return values

false = 0Btrue = 1B

:- Establish error handler

catch, error_status
if error_status ne 0 then begin
catch, /cancel
return, false
endif

;- Try opening the file

cdfid = ncdf_open(filename)

:- If we get this far, open must have worked

ncdf_close, cdfid catch, /cancel return, true

END

Then it's just a matter of:

if not ncdf_isncdf(filename) then begin
 help, filename
 message, 'FILENAME is not in NetCDF format'

```
endif
cdfid = ncdf_open( filename )
Cheers,
Liam.
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