Subject: Add a variable to existing NetCDF file
Posted by laura.hike on Fri, 09 Jan 2015 20:39:26 GMT

I know this topic was discussed previously, but the only solution given was to use Dave Fanning's suite of NetCDF tools. Seems like there should be an easier answer.

I opened an existing NetCDF file using ncdf_open with the /write option. Then I set up all the information about a new variable (name, dimensions, etc.) I then tried to create the new variable in the NetCDF file using ncdf_vardef:

newid = ncdf_vardef(id, 'swgup', [timeid,latid,lonid], /float)

In response, I get the message

% NCDF_VARDEF: Unable to define variable, not in define mode.

However, the only way I can find to enter define mode in the Exelis documentation is to create a new file using ncdf_create. There must be another way. If not, why is there a /write option in ncdf_open in the first place? It seems silly to have to copy over the whole existing file just to add a variable. From what I can see, this would take hundreds of commands for my file.

Maybe this question is only for the IDL developers, if using Dave's tools will work. I just don't understand why this should be so difficult.

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