
Subject: Modify netcdf attributes

Posted by [khyde](#) on Thu, 04 Aug 2016 18:49:03 GMT

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Hello,

Is it possible to change an existing global attribute in a netcdf file? I have figured out a couple different ways to add a new global attribute, but I would also like to modify the information stored in an existing attribute.

I've tried using NCDF_ATTPUT and NCDF_PUT, but the program crashes and actually shuts down IDL when I use NCDF_CLOSE to close the file.

One option I have is to first delete the attribute, then add it back with the updated information, but I was hoping to just modify the information so that the list of attributes stays in the same order.

Thanks,
-K

Subject: Re: Modify netcdf attributes

Posted by [joe.sapp](#) on Wed, 10 Aug 2016 15:37:53 GMT

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On Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 2:49:08 PM UTC-4, KH wrote:

> Is it possible to change an existing global attribute in a netcdf file? I have figured out a couple different ways to add a new global attribute, but I would also like to modify the information stored in an existing attribute.

You need to be in "define" mode if the attribute is a different size from the existing one (e.g., a string). Try `ncdf_control, ncid, /redef` first to see if that fixes things.

Subject: Re: Modify netcdf attributes

Posted by [khyde](#) on Wed, 10 Aug 2016 16:31:37 GMT

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On Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 11:37:56 AM UTC-4, joe....@noaa.gov wrote:

> On Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 2:49:08 PM UTC-4, KH wrote:

>> Is it possible to change an existing global attribute in a netcdf file? I have figured out a couple different ways to add a new global attribute, but I would also like to modify the information stored in an existing attribute.

>

> You need to be in "define" mode if the attribute is a different size from the existing one (e.g., a string). Try `ncdf_control, ncid, /redef` first to see if that fixes things.

Thank you for your suggestion. I tried the following:

```
1) id = ncdf_open(file,/write)
2) ncdf_control, id, /redef
3) ncdf_attput, id, 'title', 'new_title',/global
4) ncdf_control,id,/endef
5) ncdf_close, id
```

The program crashes the entire IDL session at step 4. I tried skipping this step as well, and then it crashes the system at ncdf_close. This happens in both on both the Mac and Linux OS.

Any thoughts on what I am doing wrong or is this something I just won't be able to do without first deleting the original attribute?

Thanks,
-K

Subject: Re: Modify netcdf attributes
Posted by [khyde](#) on Thu, 11 Aug 2016 14:14:43 GMT
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It turns out the .nc files I am trying to read are actually HDF5 files. Can the global attributes of a HDF5 file be easily modified? If so, could you point me in the right direction. There are so many H5 routines that I am not sure where to start.

Thanks again,
-K
