

How do I change the bits per value (bitsPerValue) - ecCodes GRIB FAQ

Step-by-step guide

This can be done by using the [grib_set](#) command.

You can use the "setBitsPerValue" key as in:

```
% grib_set -s setBitsPerValue=17 in.grib out.grib
```

or use the "repack" (-r) option with the "bitsPerValue" key:

```
% grib_set -r -s bitsPerValue=17 in.grib out.grib
```

In these commands, we first decode the data values, then change the bitsPerValue key and then repack (i.e., encode those values back in).

It is advisable to check the field values after such a change, for example by printing and comparing the statistics before and after:

```
% grib_ls -n statistics in.grib  
% grib_ls -n statistics out.grib
```

Of course you can also use [grib_compare](#).

Related articles

- [Keys and their types - ecCodes GRIB FAQ](#)
- [grib_to_netcdf: skips Control Forecast when I convert Ensemble Forecast data - ecCodes GRIB FAQ](#)
- [grib_to_netcdf: Why do I get the error "Wrong number of fields... Try using the -T option" - ecCodes GRIB FAQ](#)
- [Why do I get a bitmap even though none of my values are missing - ecCodes GRIB FAQ](#)
- [What is the GRIB bitmap - ecCodes GRIB FAQ](#)