
Subject: Re: netCDF _FillValue attributes

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 12:08:42 GMT

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sdj@tiscali.it wrote:

> Dear All,

>

> I am using IDL to produce some netCDF files.

>

> In order to adhere to the COARDS convention I need to supply the

> _FillValue attribute.

>

> My data variable is in form of a byte array, with values ranging from

0

> to 255.

> My valid values go from 0 to 254, and subsequently I want to have both

> the _FillValue and the missing_value attributes set to 255.

>

> The problem I am having is that I cannot set the _FillValue to 255.

> By running the code attached below (with the different options ->), and

> ncdumping -h the resulting netCDF file I always get the _FillValue =

> '\377'

ncdump treats BYTE data as a character type. If the number stored represents a printable character, it prints it as that character (for instance, 'C'). Otherwise, it uses C-style escape sequences such as '\t' for the tab character. If there's no special escape sequence for a given value, it just prints it as an octal escape sequence like the one you see. '\377' represents $3*8^2+7*8+7 = 255$. No problem.
