
Subject: IDL 4.0 bug (netCDF related)

Posted by [legler](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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There seems to be a bug in writing character data to a netCDF file in IDL 4.0. I have not received confirmation of this from RSI, but I wanted to alert potential users...

Instead of writing character data, the data are written as type BYTE. Here is a small test routine and output of ncdump (dumps contents of newly generated netCDF file 'test.nc'). Note the dump indicates the CHAR data was written as type BYTE. Writing character data as type CHAR worked just fine in previous versions of IDL.

PRO test

```
new_id = NCDF_CREATE('test.nc', /Clobber)
ndim = 1
dim = LONARR(1)
dim(0) = NCDF_DIMDEF(new_id, 'rec', /UNLIMITED)
var_id = NCDF_VARDEF(new_id, 'chrvar', dim(0), /CHAR)
NCDF_CONTROL, new_id, /ENDEF
NCDF_VARPUT, new_id, var_id, 'This is a test'
NCDF_CLOSE, new_id
end
```

ncdump of 'test.nc':

=====

netcdf test {

dimensions:

```
    rec = UNLIMITED ; // (14 currently)
```

variables:

```
    byte chrvar(rec) ;
```

data:

```
chrvar = 84, 104, 105, 115, 32, 105, 115, 32, 97, 32, 116, 101, 115, 116 ;
}
```

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