Subject: Re: NetCDF and empty variables
Posted by Mark[1] on Sun, 19 Apr 2009 23:08:27 GMT
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On Apr 18, 7:34 am, renaud.dussur...@gmail.com wrote:
> Well, as I've said, it is much nastier than this.
> varid returned by NCDF_VARID is correct
> (the variable exists in the netcdf file and this
> is its ID). The return of NCDF_VARINQ also suppose
> that this variable should have 3 dimensions
> (as, I think,the creator of this file
> intended it...) But there is simply NO DATA
> within this variable, and there is no way
> to check this before trying to get the
> data from the file.

To the best of my knowledge the only way you can get an "empty"
variable in a netCDF file is for that variable to depend on the
unlimited dimension, and for the unilimited dimension to have 0
records. You can check for the ID of the unlimited dimension with
NCDF_INQUIRE and then determine its size with NCDF_DIMINQ. You can
determine the dimensions associated with each variable with
NCDF_VARINQ. And you can use the ncdump utility (outside IDL) to give
you a user-friendly listing of the file structure and contents.

Yes, it's a pity IDL doesn't support empty arrays, isn't it?