
Subject: NetCDF and empty variables

Posted by [renaud.dussurget](#) on Fri, 17 Apr 2009 13:18:11 GMT

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Hi,

I've been trying reading a NC file with David Fanning's (very handy!) NCDF_DATA object, and it failed reading a file while parsing it. After trying to understand where it was crashing, I've realised that this variable was empty (though it is supposed to have 3 dimensions) and that IDL NCDF_VARGET function was not able to deal with this problem...

An example :

```
IDL>ncid = NCDF_OPEN('myFile.nc')
IDL>varId = NCDF_VARID(ncid,'HISTORY_INSTITUTION')
IDL>out=NCDF_VARINQ(ncid, VarId)
IDL>help, out, /str
** Structure <a9c098>, 5 tags, length=56, data length=52, refs=1:
  NAME      STRING  'HISTORY_INSTITUTION'
  DATATYPE   STRING  'CHAR'
  NDIMS      LONG    3
  NATTS      LONG    3
  DIM        LONG    Array[3]
```

```
IDL>print, out.dim
      6      8     12
```

```
IDL>NCDF_VARGET, ncid, varId, data, COUNT=cnt
% Array dimensions must be greater than 0.
```

I have found a simple way to deal with this, however I don't really like it...

```
IDL>cmd = 'NCDF_VarGet, ncid, varId, data'
IDL>res= EXECUTE(cmd)
% Array dimensions must be greater than 0.
```

And then in the code, write something like this
IF (res EQ 0) THEN data = -1

Does anyone has a better solution???

Thanks
Bye
