
Subject: Re: NCDF_ATTPUT _FillValue problem for string arrays?

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Tue, 07 Jul 2009 07:17:29 GMT

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On Mon, 6 Jul 2009, Paul van Delst wrote:

```
> AHA!!!
>
> When I change your above test code to use the conventional fill value
> attribute name as specified in the netCDF Interface Guide, "_FillValue", I
> get the following:
>
> ncid=ncdf_create('test.nc', /clobber)
> dim32=ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'dim1', 32)
> n_absorbers_dimid=ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'dim2', 9)
> varid = ncdf_vardef( ncid, 'absorber_units_name', [dim32,n_absorbers_dimid], /char)
> ncdf_attput, ncid, varid, '_FillValue', '' ; <---**** Note the attribute name
> ncdf_control, ncid, /endef
> ncdf_close, ncid
>
> IDL> .run blah
> % Compiled module: $MAIN$.
> % NCDF_CONTROL: Attempt to take the file out of define mode (ENDEF) failed.
> % (NC_ERROR=-45)
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$          6 scratch/blah.pro
>
>
> So:
> - if I use "_fillvalue" for the attribute name, the code works fine.
> - if I use "_FillValue" for the attribute name, the code crashes.
>
```

I have found the solution: _FillValue needs to be the same type as the variable. '' is an IDL string, which is converted to something, probably BYTE. So let's add an explicite /CHAR to ncdf_attput:

```
ncid=ncdf_create('test.nc', /clobber)
dim32=ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'dim1', 32)
n_absorbers_dimid=ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'dim2', 9)
varid = ncdf_vardef( ncid, 'absorber_units_name', [dim32,n_absorbers_dimid], /char)
ncdf_attput, ncid, varid, '_FillValue', '', /CHAR
ncdf_control, ncid, /endef
ncdf_close, ncid
```

It works now! :-)

regards,
lajos
