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Subject: Re: NCDF\_ATTPUT \_FillValue problem for string arrays?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 08 Jul 2009 19:12:40 GMT

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F&gt; LDY Lajos wrote:

>  
> 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! :-)

Yes, it does for me also.

You, sir, are a star!

Thanks,

paulv

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