
Subject: Re: Problems writing netCDF files
Posted by [POLCHER Jan](#) on Wed, 11 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Sorry for causing all this noise on the Internet !!

Found the answer to this stupid question myself !

netCDF only supports characters. Thus it should be like this, and it is rather surprising that ncdump produces strings for some files.

In IDL the solution is to read the attribute into a the variable and then do a string on it. Like this :

```
res=ncdf_attnq(fid, var_id, "title")
title=string(xx_tmp)
```

Perhaps it answers the question for somebody else !!

Best regards

POLCHER Jan wrote:

```
> I have a small problem when writing STRINGS to netCDF files. This is
> espacially problematic for attributes.
>
> When I do the following :
>
> title="Sea Surface"
> ncd_f_attnq, cr_id, var_id, 'title', title, /char
>
> I get a strange result in the file. ON a ncdump I get the following
> output :
>
> toto:title = 'S', 'e', 'a', ' ', 'S', 'u', 'r', 'f', 'a', 'c', 'e'
>
> A similar problem exists when I read an attribute from an existing
> netCDF file. The IDL variable contains the ASCII numbers for the single
> characters.
>
> To me it looks as if strings are not supported by the IDL implementation
> of netCDF. Perhaps there is a not documented /string keyword ???
```

--

Jan Polcher

TEL:

-33-1-44322243

Laboratoire de Mécanique et Horlogerie Dynamique du CNRS

FAX:

-33-1-43368392

École Normale Supérieure

24, rue Lhomond

polcher@lmd.ens.fr

75231 PARIS cedex 05, FRANCE

<http://www.lmd.ens.fr/~polcher/>
