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Subject: Re: Can't get out of define mode in ncdf, not specific to variable.

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2012 23:25:30 GMT

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How many variables are you writing? What version of IDL? What version of netCDF?

If you are writing lots of variables, there used to be a limit to the total number (in older netcdf's at least. I think it was 300).

Complete shot in the dark.....

On 11/15/12 17:57, neleh.mac wrote:

```
> So I am using IDL to read in ncdf data, and write out (to a new
> file)
> the processed data. So I go to define mode, set up the variable, add
> some attributes, switch to data mode, stick in the data, and then go
> back to define for the next one.
>
> e.g.
>   ncid = ncdf_create(file_name, /CLOBBER)
>   londim = ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'longitude_dim', 144)
>   latdim = ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'latitude_dim', 91)
>
>   vid = ncdf_vardef(ncid, 'emission', [londim,latdim], /float)
>   ncdf_attput, ncid, vid, 'long_name', "Some emissions"
>   ncdf_control, ncid, /ENDEF
>   ncdf_varput, ncid, vid, emiss_dat
>   ncdf_control, ncid, /REDEF
>
>   vid = ncdf_vardef(ncid, 'emission2', [londim,latdim], /float)
>   ncdf_attput, ncid, vid, 'long_name', "Some emissions 2"
>   ncdf_control, ncid, /ENDEF
>   ncdf_varput, ncid, vid, emiss_dat2
>   ncdf_control, ncid, /REDEF
>
>   ... etc.
>
> This works fine for several variables, over and over, until a certain
> point in the code and then at it will not get out of define mode. I
> commented out that particular part of the code where it was falling
> over, and got it to work fine (but my output file now has one less
> variable).
>
> Now the weird part.
>
> If I take the chunk of code for the variable that it falls at, and
```

> copy it back in further up the code, it works through it fine. It  
> only fails when it gets to that line again, this time on a variable  
> it wrote fine first time round.  
>  
> It's like it's failing after going into define mode a certain number  
> of times, it's not specific to any variable I'm trying to write, it  
> just always fails on the nth one, regardless of what it is. I've  
> swopped round the order it writes them to the file, and they all get  
> written, just not if they happen to be at a certain point in the  
> order. I have tried removing attributes from the variables but this  
> doesn't seem to have any effect. I am very confused by this, please  
> can you help?

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