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

Posted by [neleh.mac](#) on Thu, 15 Nov 2012 22:57:16 GMT

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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 swapped 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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