## Subject: Some sort of NULL value in IDL? Posted by deckard\_007 on Fri, 14 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

Is there something like a NULL value available in IDL? I have some data which I have to export as a HDF file. But not all of my data is good, so I want to export the bad points as NULL values like in a database. Maybe this has more to do with the HDF format than with IDL itself, but maybe someone has encountered this problem before.

Thanks,

Henk

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Subject: Re: Some sort of NULL value in IDL?
Posted by Martin Schultz on Tue, 18 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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"Liam E.Gumley" wrote:

>

- > deckard\_007@my-deja.com wrote:
- >> Is there something like a NULL value available in IDL? I have some data
- >> which I have to export as a HDF file. But not all of my data is good.
- >> so I want to export the bad points as NULL values like in a database.
- >> Maybe this has more to do with the HDF format than with IDL itself, but
- >> maybe someone has encountered this problem before.

>

- > This issue is handled in HDF Scientific Datasets by attaching standard
- > attributes to an SDS variable. The following attributes have been
- > established by the HDF and netCDF communities:

>

- > long\_name
- > A text string which describes a variable in detail (e.g. 'Northwards
- > velocity component').

>

- < unite
- > A text string which describes the units of a variable (e.g.
- > 'meters/second').

>

- > valid\_range
- > A two element array containing the valid minimum and maximum values for

- > a variable (e.g.). The type of this attribute should be the same as the variable type. > scale factor > A multiplier to be applied to a variable data after it is read (allows > float values to be stored as short or byte). The type of this attribute > should be the same as the desired unscaled variable type (e.g. float). > > add offset > An offset to be added to a variable after it is read, and after > scale\_factor (if present) is applied. The type of this attribute should > be the same as the desired unscaled variable type (e.g. float). > FillValue > A value indicating that data was not written. The type of this attribute > should be the same as the variable type. > In your case, the FillValue attribute could be used to indicate missing > data. > Cheers. > Liam.
- > http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley

... isn't there yet another standard attribute named missing\_value which would be even more appropriate?

## Martin

Subject: Re: Some sort of NULL value in IDL?
Posted by Nando lavarone on Wed, 19 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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```
<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0 transitional//en">
<html>
Martin Schultz wrote:
<blockquote TYPE=CITE>&nbsp;
```

<br>> <br>> This issue is handled in HDF Scientific Datasets by attaching standard <br>> attributes to an SDS variable. The following attributes have been <br>> established by the HDF and netCDF communities: <br/>br>></blockquote> <blockquote TYPE=CITE>&nbsp; <br >>... isn't there yet another standard attribute named missing\_value which <br>would be even more appropriate?</blockquote> Hi, < don't know anything about the specific format you are using,</pre> but when I need a 'NULL' value I use the IEEE NaN (!VALUES.F\_NAN, !VALUES.D\_NAN). This is valid only if your data type is float or double. Best regards. <--&nbsp;</pre> Nando lavarone Advanced Computer System - SPACE DIVISION via Lazzaro Belli, 23 00040 Frascati - RM Tel: +39-6-944091 (switchboard) E-mail: f.iavarone@acsys.it FrdndVrn@altavista.net </html>