Subject: NetCDF I/O problems
Posted by K. Bowman on Tue, 15 Apr 2003 15:45:54 GMT

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I want to warn everyone that I am finding what appears to be randomly
corrupted data when reading from netCDF files in IDL 5.6 on Mac OS X. I
identified the problem while trying to find the source of the floating
point exceptions mentioned in a posting a few days ago. The problem
does not seem to happen on our Linux and IRIX boxes. If you use a Mac
and netCDF files, you may want to put some extra effort into assuring
that your results are correct.

If I run the same code on the same input files, the errors occur in
different places (the program reads through about 10 GB of data). The
data corruption generally does not generate any IDL error messages
(other than floating point exceptions), so output files are corrupted
(nearly) silently.

I have no idea where the problem could be. It might be IDL; it might be
the netCDF library; it might be OS-level libraries; it might even be a
hardware problem.

I am sending RSI a detailed description of the problem.

If this is some blunder of my own, I'll confess as soon as I know. ;-)

Ken Bowman