Subject: Re: netCDF _FillValue attributes Posted by James Kuyper on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 12:08:42 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

sdj@tiscali.it wrote:

> Dear All,

>

> I am using IDL to produce some netCDF files.

>

In order to adhere to the COARDS convention I need to supply theFillValue attribute.

>

- My data variable is in form of a byte array, with values ranging from 0
- > to 255.
- > My valid values go from 0 to 254, and subsequently I want to have both
- > the _FillValue and the missing_value attributes set to 255.

>

- > The problem I am having is that I cannot set the _FillValue to 255.
- > By running the code attached below (with the different options ->), and
- > ncdumping -h the resulting netCDF file I always get the _FillValue =
- > '\377'

ncdump treats BYTE data as a character type. If the number stored represents a printable character, it prints it as that character (for instance, 'C'). Otherwise, it uses C-style escape sequences such as '\t' for the tab character. If there's no special escape sequence for a given value, it just prints it as an octal escape sequence like the one you see. '\377' represents 3*8^2+7*8+7 = 255. No problem.