
Subject: netCDF _FillValue attributes
Posted by [sdj](#) on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 11:04:17 GMT
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Dear All,

I am using IDL to produce some netCDF files.

In order to adhere to the COARDS convention I need to supply the _FillValue 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'

So the question is, how can I set (force) the _FillValue attribute to 255 (byte) ?

Thanks for the help.

Best Regards,
Pepe

```
.....  
.....  
.....  
lon_id = NCDF_DIMDEF(id, 'longitude', x)  
lat_id = NCDF_DIMDEF(id, 'latitude', y)  
  
;Define the variables to be used in the file  
longitude_id = NCDF_VARDEF(id, 'longitude', lon_id, /FLOAT)  
latitude_id = NCDF_VARDEF(id, 'latitude', lat_id, /FLOAT)  
data_id = NCDF_VARDEF(id, 'data', [lon_id, lat_id], /BYTE)  
  
NCDF_ATTPUT, id, chl_id, 'valid_min', '0'  
NCDF_ATTPUT, id, chl_id, 'valid_max', '254'  
-> NCDF_ATTPUT, id, /BYTE, chl_id, '_FillValue', byte(255)  
-> NCDF_ATTPUT, id, chl_id, '_FillValue', byte(255)  
NCDF_ATTPUT, id, chl_id, 'missing_value', '255'  
  
;Put the file into data mode
```

```
NCDF_CONTROL, id, /ENDEF
```

```
;Write the appropriate data to the netCDF file
```

```
NCDF_VARPUT, id, longitude_id, longitude
```

```
NCDF_VARPUT, id, latitude_id, latitude
```

```
NCDF_VARPUT, id, data_id, data
```

```
;Close the netCDF file
```

```
NCDF_CLOSE, id
```

```
END
```

```
ncdump-h file.netcdf
```

```
.
```

```
byte data(latitude, longitude) ;
```

```
data:standard_name = "Test" ;
```

```
data:long_name = "Test data" ;
```

```
data:valid_min = "0" ;
```

```
data:valid_max = "254" ;
```

```
data:_FillValue = '\377' ;
```

```
data:missing_value = "255" ;
```