Subject: HDF Bug -- Was: Saving HDF templates
Posted by davidf on Wed, 06 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

William Hix (raph@phy.ornl.gov) wrote several days ago:

>   Thanks for answering my previous question. As always, this just
> leads to another. I've figured out how to use HDF_BROWSER and HDF_READ to
> read in an HDF file. But that's about as far as the HDF documentation
> takes me. So I'm left with the following questions.
>
>   How can I save the template which HDF_BROWSER generates? If I can save
> it, either in a .dat file which I can readf in with a procedure or in a form
> which I can put directly into a .pro (template = ...), I can automate some
> of this analysis. It seems to me that the template is just a structure,
> so both of these should be possible but my limited knowledge of structures
> has thus far thwarted my efforts. Any pointers?

Trying to follow this question up, I discovered that in my Windows
IDL 5.2 version that I couldn't even use the HDF_BROWSER and
HDF_READ together without causing an error. RSI technical support
now confirms this is a bug with no known workaround.

So--just so some of the rest of you don't think you are
going crazy too--here is what happens to me when I try to use
these two programs together:

```
IDL> Print, !Version
{ x86 Win32 Windows 5.2 Oct 30 1998}

IDL> template = hdf_browser('testhdf.hdf')
IDL> output_structure = HDF_READ('testhdf.hdf', TEMPLATE=template)
% Variable is undefined: COMPARE_STRUCTURES.
% Execution halted at:  HDF_READ
%                $MAIN$
```

I created the HDF file by running the WRITEHDF program on my
web page:

  http://www.dfanning.com/programs/writehdf.pro

I'll let you know if I learn anything more.

Cheers,

David

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