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Subject: Re: Need help with HDF\_VD\_WRITE!!!

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Thu, 10 Oct 2002 15:35:59 GMT

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> Brian Huether wrote:

>

> This is quite maddening. I am using IDL 5.2 and am working with HDF  
> files. Consider an array with 2 columns, where each col is a field and  
> each row a record. In the language of HDF, that would be a VDATA. In  
> theory, then the following commands should work:

>

> fid=HDF\_OPEN('test.hdf',/CREATE)

> Vdat2 = HDF\_VD\_ATTACH(fid, -1, /WRITE)

Before you can write any records, you first need to call HDF\_VD\_DEFINE  
to define each field in the vdata:

```
IDL> HDF_VD_FDEFINE, Vdat2, 'F1', /FLOAT
```

```
IDL> HDF_VD_FDEFINE, Vdat2, 'F2', /FLOAT
```

```
> HDF_VD_WRITE, Vdat2, 'F1,F2', fltarr(2,10)
```

I'm not entirely sure what the field list argument is for in  
HDF\_VD\_WRITE. The corresponding raw HDF function can only write an  
entire record, and can only be called for a vdata that has already had  
it's fields defined. I tried the following:

```
IDL> HDF_VD_WRITE, Vdat2, 'F1', 1.0
```

```
% HDF_VD_WRITE: Insufficient data in item (<FLOAT ( 1.00000)>)  
to
```

```
write even 1 record.
```

However, the following was accepted:

```
HDF_VD_WRITE, Vdat2, 'F1', [1.0,2.0]
```

And vshow gave me the following results after I closed the file:

```
FILE: test.hdf
```

```
No vgroups in this file
```

```
Lone vdatas:
```

```
L vs:2 <1962/2> nv=11 i=0 fld [F1,F2] vsize=8 (NoName {})
```

```
0: fld [F1], type=5, order=1
```

```
1: fld [F2], type=5, order=1
```

```
0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000  
0.000000
```

```
0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000  
0.000000
```

```
0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 1.000000 2.000000
```

0 attributes.

Which looks to me like it wrote [1.0,2.0] exactly as if I'd indicated "F1,F2", rather than simply "F1". So I'm confused.

--

James Kuyper  
MODIS Level 1 Lead  
Science Data Support Team  
(301) 352-2150

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