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Subject: Inconsistent problem of HDF I/O  
Posted by [K.Y.Choi](#) on Wed, 27 Nov 2002 16:02:31 GMT  
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Hello

I've got HDF files that have been created with NCSA HDF Version 3.3 Release 3, February 1994. It contains several VGroups and one or two SD objects. I wrote an IDL code for the HDF file I/O, that extracts some file information from VGroups, as well as image data in SD objects.

My routine has inconsistent problem, that is, when I tried to run my code to open a file, it some times yields error message like

% HDF\_CLOSE: Failed to close file (ï¿½).

In parentheses, it shows funny ASCII shapes, such as ï¿½ shape or | shape. With or without recompiling, it \*sometimes\* works after a couple of trials for the same file. The file has no problem whatsoever with HDF\_BROWSER, indicating that the HDF file is fine.

Only solution I can think of was to separate HDF\_OPEN - HDF\_CLOSE from HDF\_SD\_START - HDF\_SD\_ENDACCESS - HDF\_SD\_END. Hence structure of my code is as follows,

```
HDF_OPEN
:
access VGroup
:
HDF_CLOSE

HDF_SD_START
:
access SD
:
HDF_SD_ENDACCESS
HDF_SD_END

HDF_OPEN
:
access VGroup
:
HDF_CLOSE
```

The error always points HDF\_CLOSE at the end of the routine

I thought (still think) HDF\_OPEN - HDF\_CLOSE and HDF\_SD\_START -

HDF\_SD\_ENDACCESS - HDF\_SD\_END behave exactly like OPENR /GET\_LUN - FREE\_LUN. But they don't?

Should I blame a guy who creates the HDF file or IDL or myself? How am I improve my routine as solid as BMW?

I look forward to hearing from you guys soon. Please share your wisdom and experience...

Thanks

Reno

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