Subject: Re: delete a dataset in a hdf file
Posted by James Kuyper on Wed, 26 Feb 2003 19:21:00 GMT

Klemens Barfus wrote:
>
> Hello together,
> how can I delete a dataset in a hdf file ? I have not found anything
> about it except a command like HDF_DELDD. Is it the right way and how do
> I have to use it ?

That only removes tags and descriptors. HDF isn't really designed for
deleting things; its design reflects a "write once, read many" attitude.
The there are a few things that you can delete. You can use HDF_DELDD,
and since HDF is built upon CDF, you can use NCDF_ATTDEL to delete
attributes. However, they aren't really removed from the file;
internally, they're marked as "no longer active", but they still use up
space.

You can emulate deletions of a dataset, by copying every part of a file,
except the part you want deleted, to a new file. Then erase the old one,
and change the name of the new file to match the old one. Sorry, that's
about the best you can do.