Michael Wallace <mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu.invalid> wrote in message
news:<103d0qatlo9385a@corp.supernews.com>...
> My education in IDL continues. Today's lesson is HDF files. I had
> never heard of HDF, let alone try to work with it before now. (Boo!)
> But, it appears that IDL already had a fair number of HDF functions.
> (Yea!) But, the documentation makes absolutely zero sense. (Boo!) But
> there's always help at the IDL newsgroup. (Yea!) ... It's Friday
> afternoon and I'm in a weird mood.
>
> Anyway, someone far away on this vast internet was gracious enough to
> make some of his data available, but he created HDF files (with ample
> documentation of what all the fields mean). Maybe it's because I don't
> understand the HDF format itself, but I couldn't find any coherent
> explanation of the IDL API to HDF. In the past hour or so, I've only
> managed to determine that there are 13 tags in the file in question.
> And I've found which tags are being referenced. I tried using
> HDF_Browser to create a template for me, and I can see the field names
> and such, but there's nothing to click on to the make the template
> extract everything. When I try an HDF_Read afterward, I only get a
> couple of the metadata items in my structure. Where's the rest of the
> data? Why isn't it there?
>
> All I want to do is dump all of the data in the file into a structure!
> Is that too much to ask?! I really have no need or desire to learn all
> the ins and outs of HDF; I just want to read this data. Had this been
> plain text, I would already have my plots by now. Plain text files are
> _so_ much better.
>
> *sigh*
>
> -Mike

Hi Mike,

I know SFA about HDF, but I do know that for HDF 5 there's a routine
called H5_PARSE.PRO that returns a structure of all the goodies in the file.
The source code is in the LIB directory of the IDL distribution.

Might help.

Andrew

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