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Subject: Re: Reading HDF5 Variable

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2005 20:41:16 GMT

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In article <MPG.1c7a6e292d3e283e989910@news.frii.com>,  
David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> Does anyone know if it is even \*possible\* to learn how  
> to access a variable from an HDF5 file from the IDL  
> documentation!?

I think the short answer is "no".

At the risk of starting a flame war, the netCDF interface (about 25 functions) seems to have been written by scientists for scientists, while the HDF interface appears to have been written by programmers for programmers (hundreds(?) of functions).

Admittedly, HDF files are more flexible than netCDF files, but the user interface is much more complex. The HDF files that I have seen don't appear to use any of the features that are not in the netCDF interface.

Your best bet is to find some sample code that reads your HDF files.

:-(

Ken

>  
> I really don't have a week to figure this out. Does  
> anyone have a simple example. I can see and access  
> the data with H5\_QUERY. But I can't make any sense  
> of the palette that is suppose to be attached to the  
> data. It is 976 elements long. That doesn't even  
> begin to divide by 256. :-(  
>  
> What I am trying to do is extract a 2D image and its  
> accompanying palette in order to build and save a JPEG  
> file. (Typically I don't mind spending hours and hours  
> researching a topic, but the FAFSA Student Aid forms  
> are due today and I'm working on income taxes. :-(  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> David

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