

---

Subject: Re: Newbie to satellite data and IDL

Posted by [peter.albert@gmx.de](mailto:peter.albert@gmx.de) on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 07:49:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi Alex,

if your AVHRR data happens to come in HDF5, you might want to try our little `READ_HDF()` routine found at <http://www.met.fu-berlin.de/idl/>. It can possibly help you understanding how to deal with HDF files in IDL. Furthermore, if your data is still in satellite projection (or any other different from plain lat/lon), you need some routines for properly plotting the data onto a map. The starting point here would be Liam Gumley's `IMAGEMAP` routine. On the above website you'll find a modified (object-oriented) version, `MAP_IMAGE__DEFINE`. Above all, it adds the option to subsequently add multiple overpasses into one plot.

Assuming you had a AVHRR HDF file with three datasets, "lon", "lat" and "sst", the code fragment for creating the first image would read like

```
lon = read_hdf(avhrr_filename, "/lon")
lat = read_hdf(avhrr_filename, "/lat")
sst = read_hdf(avhrr_filename, "/sst")
m = obj_new("map_image", sst, lat, lon, /rainbow)
obj_destroy, m
```

Cheers,

Peter

---