
Subject: Re: netcdf and hdf together

Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Thu, 10 Aug 2006 18:53:55 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Paul van Delst wrote:

>>

>> \$ hfdump file.hdf | ncgen -b ofile.nc -

>>

>> Then in IDL, just read and write netCDF and forget about HDF. :o)

>

> Perhaps you should explain that hfdump is a version of ncdump, but

> linked against the HDF libraries instead of the netCDF libraries:

>

> http://www.ferret.noaa.gov/Ferret/Mail_Archives/fu_2002/msg00501.html

>

> Does this always work? Aren't there features supported by HDF but not

> netCDF?

If the dimension, variable, and attribute names in the HDF file conform to netCDF specifications (e.g., no special characters such as *), then it should work.

Large HDF files may cause problems because the dump step creates an ASCII representation of the data in the file.

Finally, it's not all that difficult to work with HDF4 files in IDL, particularly the 'Scientific Data Set' variant. However with HDF5, all bets are off.

Cheers,

Liam.

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