Subject: Reading HDF5 signed bytes gives strange results
Posted by Maarten[1] on Tue, 22 Aug 2006 16:38:52 GMT
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Hi,

When reading a signed byte from and HDF5 file I get all kinds of nasty results. Of course, IDL doesn't know about signed bytes, but I expect it to be nice to the bit-images, and read -127 (signed) as 129 (unsigned). However, none of that seems to happen with the routines I use.

When reading with h5_parse(file, /read), I get the fields, with -127 (the fill value, in case you're wondering) replaced by 129, as expected in 2-complement notation. All would be well, If the rest of my software could use h5_parse. But I can't use it for various reasons.

When using h5f_open, h5d_open, h5d_read & friends, the value -127 is repleaced by 0. The fill value (an attribute) is replaced by 0. And 0 is a perfectly valid data-value. When I then try to filter for fill values, I throw out quite a few valid values.

How can I force the field to be read differently so that values < 0 end up at values > 127, while not resorting to h5_parse?

Maarten