
Subject: Re: Reading HDF5 signed bytes gives strange results [resolved]

Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2006 11:29:59 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Maarten writes:

>

>> I tried to create a minimal example using h5f_open, h5d_open, h5d_read

>> & friends working on a small hdf5 sample file. After I had created that

>> file, I noticed that the values were read correctly in this minimal

>> example.

>

> Ain't that always the way! :-)

It turns out that it was a nasty combination of a genuine IDL bug, and my calling sequence.

Details:

As a service to its users, our system administration keeps old version of IDL available (6.1, 6.2 and 6.3). The default is 6.2, when enough have tested the water, the default is updated. In my shell I have an alias that points IDL to the new release. Alas, the alias doesn't work in shell scripts, and the program I experienced the issue with calls IDL from a shell script, and gets 6.2.

IDL 6.2, or rather the HDF5 library that comes with IDL6.2 contains a bug where all negative values in a signed byte are mapped to zero.

Maarten
