
Subject: Appending data to a dataset in an HDF5 file
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Wed, 31 Jan 2007 16:40:21 GMT
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Hi,

The title says it all, really: I'm trying to create a dataset with an unlimited dimension, so that I can append data later, preferably without reading the previous data. Right now I'm not even getting to that last refinement, just reading the data, then extending the array and finally writing the extended array back to the file fails.

I create the dataspace with

```
dataspace_id = H5S_CREATE_SIMPLE([10,20,13], max_dim=[-1,20,13])
```

and I think this creates an unlimited first dimension (if I understand the docs, which may be a tad optimistic). I can write a single data set, but when writing the second (appended) set I'd expect that writing something with dimensions [12,20,13] would be possible, but I get an error:

```
% H5D_WRITE: Number of elements in the IDL variable must match that of  
the HDF5 dataspace/datatype
```

What am I doing wrong here? Do I need to set the dimension itself to [-1,20,13]? The docs don't seem to suggest that.

Help!

Maarten
