great, thanks guys! I'll try this, too.
In the meantime I did the file_search and read in file by file with a
for-loop. But I guess this solution does not append the "newly" read
Variable to the other ones so that I can do a plot of a time series..?
@david: yeah, lucky me it didnt take me too long to figure out what I
needed to change on your hdf_read program so that it works with my
variables :) (i used the filename = read_hdf() at the IDL command line
to check for the SDS variable names)