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Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files

Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 13:36:40 GMT

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On Jul 15, 7:41 am, julia.waltersp...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi!  
> I'm a newbie to IDL (I used to program in MATLAB but the place i work  
> at only has IDL licences) and i need to get some things here done  
> asap.  
> I've been struggling with reading HDF files from MODIS for quiet some  
> time now and I def need some good input!  
> Here's the thing:  
>  
> I downloaded a bunch (hundrets) of MODIS data (e.g. MOD\_06, Cloud  
> product, daily data, years 2000-2008) in HDF format from which I need  
> to extract the SDS "Cloud\_Fraction" and plot it as a time series for a  
> specific geographical region (Switzerland). I managed to read the  
> files with the program hdf\_read by David fanning and I have a vague  
> idea what to do in order to read in multiple hdf files (I guess this  
> is done with a FOR loop).  
>  
> HOWEVER: I simply cannot imagine how it is possible to link single  
> SDS' (e.g. "Cloud\_Fraction") from multiple hdf files, and I don't even  
> wanna think about displaying them as a time series or on a map of a  
> geographic region.  
>  
> Can anybody give me some good hints? anything would be greatly  
> appreciated!!!  
> many many thanks  
> Julia

You should check out Liam Gumley's `hdf_sd_varread` and `hdf_sd_vardir`.  
Then you can do something like...

```
varnames = hdf_sd_vardir(hdfid)
```

```
index = hdf_sd_nametoindex(hdfid, varnames[i]) ;-'i' is whichever  
index of varnames your Cloud_Fraction is
```

```
varid = hdf_sd_select(hdfid, index)
```

```
hdf_sd_getdata, varid, data ;-'Your cloud_fraction data will be  
stored in 'data' for you to use
```

```
hdf_sd_endaccess, varid
```

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