
Subject: Re: reading hdf files

Posted by [jameskuyper](#) on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:27:41 GMT

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TimLS wrote:

> Has anyone else had problems reading hdf files? I'm using a program
> that uses a variety of the H5* routines in IDL version 6.2.. I read
> one of my data files and the program takes around 5 seconds. I read a
> couple more files and suddenly it takes an age to read. The solution I
> adopt is to shutdown IDL and re-start at the point that I'd got to.
> Programming purists may disapprove but it works for me as all I'm
> doing with the data is writing it out to another format. Presumably
> there is some kind of memory allocation problem going on, but what can
> I do about it?

You should change line 42. :-)

Since you have chosen not to give us any actual code to look at, we can only guess at what the problem might be. With HDF functions, one of the most important things to remember is that many of them come in bookend pairs. For every `_CREATE` or `_OPEN` function, there's a corresponding `_CLOSE` function that should be called when you're done using whatever it was that you created or opened. Forgetting to close things is the single most plausible reason I can imagine for a slowdown such as you describe.
