Subject: H5F_OPEN/H5F_CLOSE apparent memory leak
Posted by Juggernaut on Fri, 20 May 2011 13:13:41 GMT
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I'm using IDL 7.1.1
Windows XP SP3

I have several HDF5s (some are very large...on the order of 10s of gigabytes a piece) and I have some automated processing of datasets inside these files I'm doing. After watching a few hundred files zip by I started to see a memory leak (only recoverable by a restart of the computer, reset and full_reset do not work). The leak eventually eats up several gigabytes of memory if a few hundred files are loaded.

At first I thought I wasn't freeing a pointer or something to that effect but after scouring through my code I couldn't find anything. To separate the problem after I restarted my computer I simply took those same files and ran the following test on them.

```
for i = 0, 299 do begin
  fid = h5f_open(files[i])
  h5f_close, fid
endfor
```

This simple for loop produced the memory leak in question. I could actually watch the memory rise as the for loop progressed and was then unable to reset the memory that IDL used without the full restart of the computer.

If you run that for loop twice in a row, the second time will be incredibly fast and no extra memory is used. My guess here is that it has cached the file information at this point making it perform quickly.

Has anyone else seen anything like this?