
Subject: Re: How to check for existence of an HDF5 group

Posted by [dg86](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2015 01:24:55 GMT

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On Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 4:39:51 AM UTC-5, superchromix wrote:

> On Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 7:24:50 PM UTC+1, David Grier wrote:

>> Dear Folks,

>>

>> I want to create new groups within an HDF5 file. Before creating a new group, however,

>> I'd like to check whether a group of the same name already exists. What's the right

>> way to do this?

>>

>> Calling H5G_OPEN or H5G_GET_OBJINFO with a new group name throws an error.

>> I could write a wrapper routine that catches the error and returns a "group not found"

>> value but that seems kludgy.

>>

>> H5_LIST returns a whole lot of information, which I suppose I could parse. That also seems

>> clunky.

>>

>> Is there a more elegant solution? Something along the lines of FILE_TEST that works

>> for HDF5 groups (H5G_TEST, e.g.)?

>>

>> All the best,

>>

>> David

>

>

> hi David,

>

> The way to do it is to use H5_LIST with the FILTER keyword.

>

> Also, I have a routine for this in my library: wmb_h5_group_exists()

>

> which can be found at http://www.github.com/superchromix/wmb_lib

>

> best,

> Mark

Thanks for the pointer to your repository, Mark. I'll have to look through the HDF5 routines closely. In the meanwhile, the following kludge is working for me. I try to open the group, and catch the error if the group doesn't exist. This is part of an object definition for storing multi-volume video data in an HDF5 archive:

```
;;;;  
;;;
```

```
function h5video::H5G_OPEN, loc_id, group
```

```
    COMPILE_OPT IDL2, HIDDEN
```

```
catch, error
if (error ne 0L) then begin
    return, 0L
    catch, /cancel
endif

gid = h5g_open(loc_id, group)
return, gid
end
```
