
Subject: Re: IDL, netCDF-4, VLEN

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 23 Feb 2017 03:16:38 GMT

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On 2/20/17 8:42 AM, lse25p@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi there

>

> I need to read a netCDF-4 file that contains variable length arrays

> (VLEN). I can find no mention of this in the IDL netCDF

> documentation. Can anyone confirm that it IDL does not implement

> readers for VLEN data?

>

> NetCDF-4 files are valid HDF5 files. Can I read the netCDF-4 file

> using the HDF routines? If so can anyone give me an example of how I

> can do this?

>

> Many thanks for any help or suggestions.

>

> Craig

>

I don't know about VLEN data in netCDF.

To start with reading using the HDF5 library, try H5_PARSE and

H5_GETDATA, i.e.:

```
IDL> d = h5_parse(file_which('ncgroup.nc'))
```

```
% Compiled module: FILE_WHICH.
```

```
% Loaded DLM: HDF5.
```

```
IDL> help, d
```

```
** Structure <17085a8>, 7 tags, length=3496, data length=3414, refs=1:
```

```
  _NAME      STRING  
'/Applications/exelis/idl85/examples/data/ncgroup.nc'
```

```
  _ICONTYPE   STRING  'hdf'  
  _TYPE       STRING  'GROUP'
```

```
  _FILE       STRING  
'/Applications/exelis/idl85/examples/data/ncgroup.nc'
```

```
  _PATH       STRING  '/'  
  _COMMENT    STRING  ""  
  SUBMARINE   STRUCT  -> <Anonymous> Array[1]
```

Mike

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Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
