
Subject: Re: delete a dataset in a hdf file
Posted by [Klemens Barfus](#) on Wed, 26 Feb 2003 19:04:32 GMT
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Ok, I tried something like these:

```
PRO DELETE_TEST
```

```
filename_out = 'e:\GESIMA\test_del2.hdf'
```

```
FileID_out = HDF_OPEN(filename_out, /READ)
```

```
HDF_DELDD, FileID_out, 702, 2
```

```
HDF_CLOSE, FileID_out
```

```
END
```

Tag 702 and Reference No 2 I got when I checked the hdf file by Noesys.
But I always get the message:

HDF_DELDD: Unable to delete the specified tag/reference pair.

Whats wrong ?

Thanks for your help in advance !

Klemens

Subject: Re: delete a dataset in a hdf file
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Wed, 26 Feb 2003 19:21:00 GMT
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Klemens Barfus wrote:

```
>  
> Hello together,  
> how can I delete a dataset in a hdf file ? I have not found anything  
> about it except a command like HDF_DELDD. Is it the right way and how do  
> I have to use it ?
```

That only removes tags and descriptors. HDF isn't really designed for deleting things; its design reflects a "write once, read many" attitude.

The there are a few things that you can delete. You can use HDF_DELDD, and since HDF is built upon CDF, you can use NCDF_ATTDEL to delete attributes. However, they aren't really removed from the file; internally, they're marked as "no longer active", but they still use up space.

You can emulate deletions of a dataset, by copying every part of a file, except the part you want deleted, to a new file. Then erase the old one, and change the name of the new file to match the old one. Sorry, that's about the best you can do.

Subject: Re: delete a dataset in a hdf file

Posted by [Klemens Barfus](#) on Thu, 27 Feb 2003 08:04:16 GMT

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Thanks James ! Because of your answer, I will not waste more time trying to delete things I can not delete.

best regards

Klemens

James Kuyper wrote:

> Klemens Barfus wrote:

>

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