
Subject: Re: netcdf and hdf together

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 08 Aug 2006 14:04:14 GMT

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queiny98@yahoo.com wrote:

- > I am trying to read in data from a HDF file and put the results input a
- > NetCDF file. The NetCDF file has one dimension and it is unlimited.
- > While I only have ~5000 data points, the output NetCDF has 7474 records
- > as shown by 'ncdump -h'. And the data in the NetCDF file look
- > reasonable, I just don't know where the extra data are from. I printed
- > out the # of record when writing, it is correct.
- >
- > I have tried debug the program for a while. Can anyone point me to the
- > right track? Or can anyone answer me the following wild questions.
- >
- > Can we use both HDF and NetCDF in the same file?

This is how I deal with it:

```
$ hfdump file.hdf | ncgen -b ofile.nc -
```

Then in IDL, just read and write netCDF and forget about HDF. :o)

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ride lots.
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC Eddy Merckx
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Subject: Re: netcdf and hdf together

Posted by [badjelly.witch](#) on Wed, 09 Aug 2006 02:29:59 GMT

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Paul van Delst wrote:

- >
- > \$ hfdump file.hdf | ncgen -b ofile.nc -
- >
- > Then in IDL, just read and write netCDF and forget about HDF. :o)

Perhaps you should explain that hfdump is a version of ncdump, but linked against the HDF libraries instead of the netCDF libraries:

http://www.ferret.noaa.gov/Ferret/Mail_Archives/fu_2002/msg0_0501.html

Does this always work? Aren't there features supported by HDF but not

netCDF?

Subject: Re: netcdf and hdf together

Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Thu, 10 Aug 2006 18:53:55 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Paul van Delst wrote:

>>

>> \$ hfdump file.hdf | ncgen -b ofile.nc -

>>

>> Then in IDL, just read and write netCDF and forget about HDF. :o)

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> Perhaps you should explain that hfdump is a version of ncdump, but

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>

> http://www.ferret.noaa.gov/Ferret/Mail_Archives/fu_2002/msg00501.html

>

> Does this always work? Aren't there features supported by HDF but not

> netCDF?

If the dimension, variable, and attribute names in the HDF file conform to netCDF specifications (e.g., no special characters such as *), then it should work.

Large HDF files may cause problems because the dump step creates an ASCII representation of the data in the file.

Finally, it's not all that difficult to work with HDF4 files in IDL, particularly the 'Scientific Data Set' variant. However with HDF5, all bets are off.

Cheers,

Liam.

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<http://www.gumley.com/>
