
Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files

Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 13:36:40 GMT

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On Jul 15, 7:41 am, julia.waltersp...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi!
> I'm a newbie to IDL (I used to program in MATLAB but the place i work
> at only has IDL licences) and i need to get some things here done
> asap.
> I've been struggling with reading HDF files from MODIS for quiet some
> time now and I def need some good input!
> Here's the thing:
>
> I downloaded a bunch (hundrets) of MODIS data (e.g. MOD_06, Cloud
> product, daily data, years 2000-2008) in HDF format from which I need
> to extract the SDS "Cloud_Fraction" and plot it as a time series for a
> specific geographical region (Switzerland). I managed to read the
> files with the program hdf_read by David fanning and I have a vague
> idea what to do in order to read in multiple hdf files (I guess this
> is done with a FOR loop).
>
> HOWEVER: I simply cannot imagine how it is possible to link single
> SDS' (e.g. "Cloud_Fraction") from multiple hdf files, and I don't even
> wanna think about displaying them as a time series or on a map of a
> geographic region.
>
> Can anybody give me some good hints? anything would be greatly
> appreciated!!!
> many many thanks
> Julia

You should check out Liam Gumley's `hdf_sd_varread` and `hdf_sd_vardir`.
Then you can do something like...

```
varnames = hdf_sd_vardir(hdfid)
```

```
index = hdf_sd_nametoindex(hdfid, varnames[i]) ; - 'i' is whichever  
index of varnames your Cloud_Fraction is
```

```
varid = hdf_sd_select(hdfid, index)
```

```
hdf_sd_getdata, varid, data ; - Your cloud_fraction data will be  
stored in 'data' for you to use
```

```
hdf_sd_endaccess, varid
```

Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 13:41:42 GMT
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Juggernaut writes:

```
> You should check out Liam Gumley's hdf_sd_varread and hdf_sd_vardir.  
> Then you can do something like...  
>  
> varnames = hdf_sd_vardir(hdfid)  
>  
> index = hdf_sd_nametoindex(hdfid, varnames[i]) ; - 'i' is whichever  
> index of varnames your Cloud_Fraction is  
>  
> varid = hdf_sd_select(hdfid, index)  
>  
> hdf_sd_getdata, varid, data ; - Your cloud_fraction data will be  
> stored in 'data' for you to use  
>  
> hdf_sd_endaccess, varid
```

Yes, I second this. The program HDFRead you found on my web page is **not** designed to read any HDF file, but just the one created with HDFWrite. You can use the HDF_BROWSER if you have to, to learn the name of your cloud_fraction variable, then use Liam's routines to read the data you need from your files.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files
Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 13:41:48 GMT
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On Jul 15, 7:41 am, julia.waltersp...@gmail.com wrote:

```
> Hi!  
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> at only has IDL licences) and i need to get some things here done  
> asap.  
> I've been struggling with reading HDF files from MODIS for quiet some
```

> time now and I def need some good input!
> Here's the thing:
>
> I downloaded a bunch (hundrets) of MODIS data (e.g. MOD_06, Cloud
> product, daily data, years 2000-2008) in HDF format from which I need
> to extract the SDS "Cloud_Fraction" and plot it as a time series for a
> specific geographical region (Switzerland). I managed to read the
> files with the program hdf_read by David fanning and I have a vague
> idea what to do in order to read in multiple hdf files (I guess this
> is done with a FOR loop).
>
> HOWEVER: I simply cannot imagine how it is possible to link single
> SDS' (e.g. "Cloud_Fraction") from multiple hdf files, and I don't even
> wanna think about displaying them as a time series or on a map of a
> geographic region.
>
> Can anybody give me some good hints? anything would be greatly
> appreciated!!!
> many many thanks
> Julia

Also...as for the loop you can simply do a file_search() routine (just
run a help inquiry on it for syntax) and find all
hdf files in a certain directory. You can use the 'count' variable it
uses to determine the loop size and then use the hdf reader
stuff I mentioned above to plot the data against each other using
'oplot' to plot over successive plots.
Hope this helps a bit.

Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files

Posted by [julia.walterspiel](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 14:51:06 GMT

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great, thanks guys! I'll try this, too.

In the meantime I did the file_search and read in file by file with a
for-loop. But I guess this solution does not append the "newly" read
Variable to the other ones so that I can do a plot of a time series..?

@david: yeah, lucky me it didnt take me too long to figure out what I
needed to change on your hdf_read program so that it works with my
variables :) (i used the filename = read_hdf() at the IDL command line
to check for the SDS variable names)

Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 15:05:47 GMT

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julia.walterspiel@gmail.com writes:

> In the meantime I did the file_search and read in file by file with a
> for-loop. But I guess this solution does not append the "newly" read
> Variable to the other ones so that I can do a plot of a time series..?

You will probably have to do that yourself. :-)

But, I imagine this array can get pretty big. I think I would write the files to disk, then read them back in using the associated variable method (ASSOC) when you need them.

```
OpenW, outlun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
FOR thisFile = 0, count-1 DO BEGIN
  thisImage = HDF_READ(files[thisFile], ....)
  WriteU, outlun, thisImage
ENDFOR
Free_Lun, outlun
```

Then, later:

```
OpenR, lun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
imageStack = Assoc(lun, IntArr(xsize, ysize))
```

To display the 4th image:

```
TV, imageStack[3]
```

Or, whatever else you want to do with them.

If you want them all, of course:

```
stack = IntArr(xsize, ysize, count)
OpenR, lun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
ReadU, lun, stack
Free_Lun, lun
```

Of course, your images might not be integer arrays, and I have no idea what size these are, etc., etc. Use this code at your discretion. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files
Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 17:50:22 GMT
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On Jul 15, 11:05 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

```
> julia.waltersp...@gmail.com writes:
>> In the meantime I did the file_search and read in file by file with a
>> for-loop. But I guess this solution does not append the "newly" read
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>
> You will probably have to do that yourself. :-)
>
> But, I imagine this array can get pretty big. I think I would
> write the files to disk, then read them back in using
> the associated variable method (ASSOC) when you need them.
>
>   OpenW, outlun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
>   FOR thisFile = 0, count-1 DO BEGIN
>       thisImage = HDF_READ(files[thisFile], ....)
>       WriteU, outlun, thisImage
>   ENDFOR
>   Free_Lun, outlun
>
> Then, later:
>
>   OpenR, lun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
>   imageStack = Assoc(lun, IntArr(xsize, ysize))
>
> To display the 4th image:
>
>   TV, imageStack[3]
>
> Or, whatever else you want to do with them.
>
> If you want them all, of course:
>
>   stack = IntArr(xsize, ysize, count)
>   OpenR, lun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
>   ReadU, lun, stack
>   Free_Lun, lun
>
> Of course, your images might not be integer arrays, and
> I have no idea what size these are, etc., etc. Use this
> code at your discretion. :-)
```

>
> Cheers,
>
> David
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

If you want to compare these in a plot you'll probably need to normalize your time series as this could be different for them all although I don't know if MODIS has a 0 start of collect time or a zulu start of collect time, etc...

Subject: Re: reading multiple HDF files
Posted by [bulrushmower](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 20:37:21 GMT
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On Jul 15, 12:50 pm, Juggernaut <juggernaut...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Jul 15, 11:05 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>
>
>
>
>
>

>> julia.waltersp...@gmail.com writes:

>>> In the meantime I did the file_search and read in file by file with a
>>> for-loop. But I guess this solution does not append the "newly" read
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>> But, I imagine this array can get pretty big. I think I would
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>> the associated variable method (ASSOC) when you need them.

>

>> OpenW, outlun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
>> FOR thisFile = 0, count-1 DO BEGIN
>> thisImage = HDF_READ(files[thisFile],)
>> WriteU, outlun, thisImage
>> ENDFOR
>> Free_Lun, outlun

>

>> Then, later:

>

>> OpenR, lun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun

```

>>  imageStack = Assoc(lun, IntArr(xsize, ysize))
>
>>  To display the 4th image:
>
>>  TV, imageStack[3]
>
>>  Or, whatever else you want to do with them.
>
>>  If you want them all, of course:
>
>>  stack = IntArr(xsize, ysize, count)
>>  OpenR, lun, 'mybigfile.dat', /Get_Lun
>>  ReadU, lun, stack
>>  Free_Lun, lun
>
>>  Of course, your images might not be integer arrays, and
>>  I have no idea what size these are, etc., etc. Use this
>>  code at your discretion. :-)
>
>>  Cheers,
>
>>  David
>>  --
>>  David Fanning, Ph.D.
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>  If you want to compare these in a plot you'll probably need to
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>  although I don't know if MODIS has a 0 start of collect time or a zulu
>  start of collect time, etc...- Hide quoted text -
>
> - Show quoted text -

```

Try this link

http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/cae923b1cd9c393b/da2b8712b63af341?hl=en&lnk=gst&q=HDF#da2b8712b63af341
