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Subject: Re: HDF vs HDF-EOS?

Posted by [jameskuyper](#) on Fri, 22 May 2009 13:43:35 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,

>

> Does anyone know off-hand how you can programmatically tell the  
> difference between an HDF file and an HDF-EOS file? I'd like  
> to know when to use the EOS\_\* routines and when to use the HDF\_\*  
> routines.

That's the wrong question, because HDF-EOS files are HDF files, just in a particular format. The question you probably want the answer to is "How do I tell whether an HDF file is an HDF-EOS file?".

The simplest way I can think of is to look for an HDF file attribute named "HDFEOSVersion". It should contain a string like "HDFEOS\_V2.9".

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Subject: Re: HDF vs HDF-EOS?

Posted by [Matt\[2\]](#) on Fri, 22 May 2009 14:29:36 GMT

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David Fanning <[news@dfanning.com](mailto:news@dfanning.com)> writes:

> Does anyone know off-hand how you can programmatically tell the  
> difference between an HDF file and an HDF-EOS file? I'd like  
> to know when to use the EOS\_\* routines and when to use the HDF\_\*  
> routines.

What about trying  
EOS\_Query?

"This function returns integer value of 1 if the file is an HDF file with EOS extensions, and 0 otherwise. "

Matt

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Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer  
National Snow and Ice Data Center  
(303) 735-0785 <http://nsidc.org>

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Subject: Re: HDF vs HDF-EOS?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 May 2009 15:26:59 GMT

savoie@nsidc.org writes:

> What about trying  
> EOS\_Query?  
>  
> "This function returns integer value of 1 if the file is an HDF file with EOS  
> extensions, and 0 otherwise. "

Ah, maybe it is just me, but I have a hard time spotting these useful routines in the L-O-N-G alphabetical listing of routines. Who thought an alphabetical listing would be the best way to present this information!?

Cheers,

David

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

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