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Subject: Re: Writing compressed HDF5 files with IDL  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Tue, 16 Feb 2010 15:08:51 GMT  
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On Feb 16, 2:50 pm, Carsten Lechte <c...@toppoint.de> wrote:  
> Has anyone managed to write (gzip) compressed HDF5 files with IDL?  
> My guess is that it is not possible with IDL 6.4.  
>  
> The help for the high-level function H5\_CREATE does not mention  
> compression, and the low-level functions for the H5P\_\* interface  
> are noticable only for their absence. The H5P\_\* functions are  
> necessary for setting the compression options.

HDF5 support was introduced quite slowly, it took RSI/ITT a few iterations to get it right (well, complete). Your best bet is to compress after creation.

In the shell (unix, right?) you can spawn the following. h5repack is part of the HDF5 library distribution. Be sure to read the help of the tool; note that --latest may prevent IDL from reading the file (if you have HDF5 1.8 installed).

```
h5repack --native --latest --filter=GZIP=6 file.h5 file-out.h5
```

Best,

Maarten.

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Subject: Re: Writing compressed HDF5 files with IDL  
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Tue, 16 Feb 2010 15:16:51 GMT  
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Thanks for your reply.

Maarten wrote:

```
> h5repack --native --latest --filter=GZIP=6 file.h5 file-out.h5
```

Yes, that's what I am doing at the moment, but it is annoying to write gigabytes of data, then compress it, then delete it.

chl

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Subject: Re: Writing compressed HDF5 files with IDL  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Wed, 17 Feb 2010 12:09:26 GMT

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On Feb 16, 4:16 pm, Carsten Lechte <c...@toppoint.de> wrote:

> Thanks for your reply.

>

> Maarten wrote:

>> h5repack --native --latest --filter=GZIP=6 file.h5 file-out.h5

>

> Yes, that's what I am doing at the moment, but it is annoying to

> write gigabytes of data, then compress it, then delete it.

Have a look at the h5d\_create function. I just checked for IDL version 6.4, and it has a gzip named parameter. Using this (and other parameters will create compressed datasets.

Maarten

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Subject: Re: Writing compressed HDF5 files with IDL  
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Fri, 19 Feb 2010 20:33:15 GMT

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Maarten wrote:

> Have a look at the h5d\_create function. I just checked for IDL version [...]

Good find! I will try that approach.

chl

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