
Subject: IDL, netCDF-4, VLEN

Posted by [lse25p](#) on Mon, 20 Feb 2017 15:42:55 GMT

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Hi there

I need to read a netCDF-4 file that contains variable length arrays (VLEN). I can find no mention of this in the IDL netCDF documentation. Can anyone confirm that it IDL does not implement readers for VLEN data?

NetCDF-4 files are valid HDF5 files. Can I read the netCDF-4 file using the HDF routines? If so can anyone give me an example of how I can do this?

Many thanks for any help or suggestions.

Craig

Subject: Re: IDL, netCDF-4, VLEN

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 23 Feb 2017 03:16:38 GMT

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On 2/20/17 8:42 AM, lse25p@gmail.com wrote:

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> Many thanks for any help or suggestions.

>

> Craig

>

I don't know about VLEN data in netCDF.

To start with reading using the HDF5 library, try H5_PARSE and H5_GETDATA, i.e.:

```
IDL> d = h5_parse(file_which('ncgroup.nc'))
```

```
% Compiled module: FILE_WHICH.
```

```
% Loaded DLM: HDF5.
```

```
IDL> help, d
```

** Structure <17085a8>, 7 tags, length=3496, data length=3414, refs=1:

```
_NAME      STRING
'/Applications/exelis/idl85/examples/data/ncgroup.nc'
_ICONTYPE   STRING  'hdf'
_TYPE       STRING  'GROUP'
_FILE       STRING
'/Applications/exelis/idl85/examples/data/ncgroup.nc'
_PATH       STRING  '/'
_COMMENT    STRING  ""
SUBMARINE   STRUCT  -> <Anonymous> Array[1]
```

Mike

--

Michael Galloy

www.michaelgalloy.com

Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
