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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

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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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> using the HDF routines? If so can anyone give me an example of how I  
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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

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Michael Galloy

[www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)

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

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