##  Dangling Symbolic Link Comparison

**Base assumption**: both specified paths are same symbolic type (soft or external link) in the examples.

### 1. When only ‘–follow-links’ option is used

**CASE 1.1**: Only one is dangling link – different

h5diff –v –follow-links <file1> <file2> /link1 /link2

(link2 is a dangling link)

**obj2 </link2> is a dangling link**

**1 differences found**

>> exit code 1

**CASE 1.2**: Both are dangling links - same

 Assumption: same type of symlink (ex: soft or external)

h5diff –v –follow-links <file1> <file2> /link1 /link2

(both link1 and link2 are dangling links)

**dangling link: </link1> and </link2>**

**0 differences found**

>> exit code 0

### 2. When both ‘–follow-links’ and ‘–no-dangling-links’ options are used

**CASE 2.1**: Both dangling links - decided to be error

h5diff –v –follow-links –no-dangling-links <file1> <file2> /link1 /link2

(both link1 and link2 are dangling links)

**Warning: </link1> is a dangling link.**

>> exit code 2

**CASE 2.2**: Only one is dangling link – decided to be error

h5diff –v –follow-links –no-dangling-links <file1> <file2> /link1 /link2

(link2 is a dangling link)

**Warning: </link2> is a dangling link.**

>> exit code 2

### When no ‘–follow-links’ option is used

**CASE 3.1**: Only one is dangling link - different

h5diff –v <file1> <file2> /link1 /link2

(link1 is valid link; link2 is a dangling link)

**link: </link1> and </link2>**

**1 differences found**

>> exit code 1

**CASE 3.2**: Both are dangling links – compare symbolic link’s path strings

h5diff –v –follow-links <file1> <file2> /link1 /link2

If both soft link’s path strings are same

**link: </link1> and </link2>**

**0 differences found**

>> exit code 0

If both external link’s path strings are same

**external link: </link1> and </link2>**

**0 differences found**

>> exit code 0