



The HDF Group



H5Edit Tool

Albert Cheng
The HDF Group



Needs for a File Editor

- Currently, a user has to write and compile an HDF5 application to do some simple editing tasks. E.g.,
 - Add an attribute to an existing dataset in an HDF5 file that is needed by a visualization tool.
 - Change the name of an existing attribute because of typos in the creation program instead of recreating the entire HDF5 data file.



H5edit: an HDF5 File Editing Tool

- A tool to perform operations on HDF5 objects in an HDF5 file
- Initial functions:
 - create: create a new attribute in an object
 - delete: delete an existing attribute from an object
- Future functions:
 - rename: modify the name of an existing attribute
 - modify: modify the value of an existing attribute
 - copy: copy an existing attribute from one object to another object
 - move: move an existing attribute from one object to another object
- RFC: <http://www.hdfgroup.org/pubs/rfcs/>



Implemented

- Create and Delete attribute commands
- Datatype supported:
 - All integer types: native int, big or little endians int, long, long long, short, ...
 - All float types: float, double, long double, ...
 - Strings type: null-terminated strings
- Data space:
 - SCALAR
 - SIMPLE (Multiple dimensions)



Possible Next Features to Implement

- Compound data types
- More user friend default setting. E.g.,
 - CREATE scale 40 /group1/dataset2
 - /* add attribute “scale” of integer type and scalar size with initial value 40 to dataset /group1/dataset2 */