**The h5diff’s current behaviors and shortcomings**

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# Purpose

Examine nonsensical behaviors and potential improvements from the list of h5diff’s current behaviors.

With the results, we can prevent similar issues from the new ***h5compare*** tool, and also decide what to do with current ***h5diff***.

This document can be used for a reference for developing the new comparing tool; h5compare.

This document also can be evolved to be a behavioral example reference for h5diff once decisions are made.

# Background

Many features have been implemented into the current h5diff command tool over its lifetime. However when some of these changes were made, they failed to address related updates that must go along with the feature (ex: default output or exit code and so on) As a result, the current h5diff tool implements some incorrect and inconsistent behaviors which confuse users.

# Main chapters

There are four main chapters to show the current h5diff tool’s behaviors.

1. Default behaviors - h5diff’s behavior without using options
2. Optional behaviors - additional or exceptional behavior with using options
3. How to handle common, extra or not-comparable object and attribute with results - what user would look and feel in a big picture
4. Other behaviors - other known issues

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# Content Format

Describing h5diff’s behaviors often caused more confusion, especially when the behavior is insensible.

So this format is put together to show each behavior, as if viewer types the command to see the output directly. It’s WYSWYG (What You See What You Get) concept to reduce misunderstanding or misinterpretation.

Throughout the rest pages, the current behavior of the h5diff will be shown along with exact output and exit-code for each behavior to be examined.

# **Highlights**

There are two styles of highlights with different colors which Indicate examining point to discuss for a decision.

* ISSUE – insensible behavior.
* IMPROVE – improvement to consider.

# Example HDF5 files

All the HDF5 files that are used in each section can be found in “Appendix A”.

The files are available to run actual test.

# Default behaviors

This section shows h5diff’s behaviors without using options. However ‘-v’ option is used to show details for verification.

There are two ways to run h5diff command.

One way is only to compare the two objects; other way is to compare the two HDF5 files.

Both ways will be shown side by side in the first section 1.1 as example. However only one way will be used for the most of cases to make easy on eyes since both ways show similar result for the purpose.

## Dataset : *Number*

Shows how h5diff compares number data in dataset.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Compare *Object* vs *Object*** | **Compare *File* vs *File*** |
| $ **h5diff dset-num1\_1.h5 dset-num1\_2.h5 /dset**  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  4 differences found | $ **h5diff dset-num1\_1.h5 dset-num1\_2.h5**  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  4 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 | EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| $ **h5diff -v dset-num1\_1.h5 dset-num1\_2.h5 /dset**  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [2x2] [2x2]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 1 0 1  [ 0 1 ] 2 0 2  [ 1 0 ] 3 0 3  [ 1 1 ] 4 0 4  4 differences found | $ **h5diff -v dset-num1\_1.h5 dset-num1\_2.h5**  **file1 file2**  **---------------------------------------**  **x x /**  **x x /dset**  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [2x2] [2x2]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 1 0 1  [ 0 1 ] 2 0 2  [ 1 0 ] 3 0 3  [ 1 1 ] 4 0 4  4 differences found |

## Dataset : *String*

Shows how h5diff compares string data in dataset.

|  |
| --- |
| $ **h5diff dset-str1\_1.h5 dset-str1\_2.h5 /string**  dataset: </string> and </string>  6 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| $ **h5diff -v dset-str1\_1.h5 dset-str1\_2.h5 /string**  dataset: </string> and </string>  size: [2] [2]  position string string difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] y c  [ 0 ] y a  [ 0 ] y t  [ 1 ] z d  [ 1 ] z o  [ 1 ] z g  6 differences found |

|  |
| --- |
| IMPROVE: currently only compare by single character as a unit. Need to also consider comparing by string as a unit. (user requested) If compared by string as a unit, there would be 2 differences. One from “yyy/cat” the other from “zzz/dog” |

## Dataset: Array (integer type)

Shows how h5diff compares number data in dataset of integer type array.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff dset-array1.h5 dset-array2.h5 /array**  dataset: </array> and </array>  3 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset-array1.h5 dset-array2.h5 /array**  dataset: </array> and </array>  size: [2x3] [2x3]  position array array difference  ---------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 1 ] 0 10 10  [ 1 0 ] 1 10 9  [ 1 2 ] 1 10 9  3 differences found |

## Dataset: Array (ARRAY type)

Shows how h5diff compares number data in dataset of ARRAY type integer array.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff dset-type-array1.h5 dset-type-array2.h5 /type-array**  dataset: </type-array> and </type-array>  3 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset-type-array1.h5 dset-type-array2.h5 /type-array**  dataset: </type-array> and </type-array>  size: [2] [2]  position type-array type-array difference  ----------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] 0 10 10  [ 1 ] 1 10 9  [ 1 ] 1 10 9  3 differences found |

|  |
| --- |
| IMPROVE: currently only compare by single value as a unit. Need to also consider comparing by set of values as a unit. (same concept as char vs string) If compare by set of values in this example, there would be 2 differences. |

## Dataset: Object Reference

Shows how h5diff compares data via Object Reference in dataset.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Compare *Object* vs *Object*** | **Compare *File* vs *File*** |
| **$ h5diff ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5 /Dset\_OBJREF**  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects. | **$ h5diff ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5**  dataset: </Dset1> and </Dset1>  1 differences found  datatype: </NamedDatatype> and </NamedDatatype>  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects. |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 | EXIT-CODE : 1 |
|  | ISSUE: Didn’t display difference for /Group/Dset2. However the difference is displayed with -v.  ISSUE: Didn’t display ”1 differences found” for NamedDatatype. However the difference is displayed with –v. |

#### Show details with ‘-c’ option

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **$ h5diff -c ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5 /Dset\_OBJREF**  <NONE> | **$ h5diff -c ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5**  dataset: </Dset1> and </Dset1>  1 differences found  datatype: </NamedDatatype> and </NamedDatatype>  <No display for why not comparable> |
| ISSUE: -c didn’t display any other message. | |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /Dset1  x x /Dset\_OBJREF  x x /Group  x x /Group/Dset2  x x /NamedDatatype  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </Dset1> and </Dset1>  size: [3] [3]  position Dset1 Dset1 difference  ----------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] 0 1 1  1 differences found  dataset: </Dset\_OBJREF> and </Dset\_OBJREF>  size: [3] [3]  position difference  ----------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] 0 1 1  Warning: Comparison not possible of object types referenced: <Dset\_OBJREF> and <Dset\_OBJREF>  Warning: Comparison not possible of object types referenced: <Dset\_OBJREF> and <Dset\_OBJREF>  1 differences found  group : </Group> and </Group>  0 differences found  dataset: </Group/Dset2> and </Group/Dset2>  size: [3] [3]  position Dset2 Dset2 difference  ----------------------------------------------------------  [ 2 ] 0 2 2  1 differences found  datatype: </NamedDatatype> and </NamedDatatype>  1 differences found  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects. |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: Tthe 1st warning is from obj-ref to “/Group” and the 2nd warning is from obj-ref to “/NamedDatatype”, there are expected to be comparable because the both obj references points same object names. The first file was copied and some values were changed, so should display the differences from the object references. |

## Dataset: Region Reference

Shows how h5diff compares data via Region Reference in dataset.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff ref-dsetreg1.h5 ref-dsetreg2.h5 /Dset\_REGREF**  <NONE> |
| EXIT-CODE : 0 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v ref-dsetreg1.h5 ref-dsetreg2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /Dset\_REGREF  x x /dset  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </Dset\_REGREF> and </Dset\_REGREF>  0 differences found  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [3x16] [3x16]  position dset dset difference  ----------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 0 1 1  . . .  [ 2 15 ] 0 3 3  48 differences found |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: Didn’t follow to compare region reference’s end point values. |

## Dataset: *Empty*

Shows how h5diff handles empty dataset.

‘Empty dataset’ is when the dataset’s storage size is 0.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff dset\_empty1.h5 dset\_empty2.h5 /empty\_d1**  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects. |
| EXIT-CODE : 0 |

#### Show details with ‘-c’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -c dset\_empty1.h5 dset\_empty2.h5 /empty\_d1**  Not comparable: </empty\_d1> or </empty\_d1> is an empty dataset |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: This empty dataset has same type and space. If type and space is same, empty should not be treated as non-comparable. It should be viewed as same dataset with empty condition. |

## Dataset: Invalid enum value

Shows how h5diff handles invalid emun value in dataset.

Invalid enum value is a number which is not defined in the enum structure.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff enum\_invalid.h5 enum\_invalid.h5 /dset1 /dset2**  dataset: </dset1> and </dset2>  3 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v enum\_invalid.h5 enum\_invalid.h5 /dset1 /dset2**  dataset: </dset1> and </dset2>  size: [6] [6]  position dset1 dset2 difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] YIN \*\*INVALID VALUE\*\*  [ 2 ] \*\*INVALID VALUE\*\* YIN  [ 5 ] YIN YANG  3 differences found |

|  |
| --- |
| IMPROVE: There is two pair of invalid enum values. We may consider displaying 5 differences. So user can aware the status of invalid values.  Refer to “enum\_invalid.h5” in APPENDIX A  ISSUE: how do we want to compare valid enum type? By only string, only assigned number? Or both? |

## Group

Shows how h5diff compares two groups which contain objects. Recursive by default.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v groups1.h5 groups2.h5 /grp1 /grp1**  group1 group2  ---------------------------------------  x x  x x /dset  x x /grp2  x x /grp2/dset  group : </grp1> and </grp1>  0 differences found  dataset: </grp1/dset> and </grp1/dset>  size: [3] [3]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] 0 1 1  1 differences found  group : </grp1/grp2> and </grp1/grp2>  0 differences found  dataset: </grp1/grp2/dset> and </grp1/grp2/dset>  size: [3] [3]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] 0 2 2  1 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| IMPROVE: Blank line between objects would be easier to read the output. (should consider for h5compare with different level output) |

## Named Datatype

Shows how h5diff compares two Named datatypes.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5 /NamedDatatype /NamedDatatype**  datatype: </NamedDatatype> and </NamedDatatype>  <no output of difference found> |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v ref-obj1.h5 ref-obj2.h5 /NamedDatatype /NamedDatatype**  datatype: </NamedDatatype> and </NamedDatatype>  1 differences found |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: Should display “1 differences found” also for default. |

# Optional behaviors

Additional or exceptional behaviors by using options.

Beside of the entitled option, verbose options (ex: ‘-v’, ‘-c’) are also used to show details for verification.

## ‘-n C’ or ‘--count=C’

Print differences up to C number. C is a positive integer.

#### without ‘-n’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset-num1\_1.h5 dset-num1\_2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /dset  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [2x2] [2x2]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 1 0 1  [ 0 1 ] 2 0 2  [ 1 0 ] 3 0 3  [ 1 1 ] 4 0 4  4 differences found |

#### with ‘-n’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v -n 2 dset-num1\_1.h5 dset-num1\_2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /dset  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [2x2] [2x2]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 1 0 1  [ 0 1 ] 2 0 2  2 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

## ‘-d D’ or ‘--delta=D’

Display output if difference from the two numbers is bigger than number ‘D’ which is specified by user.

Print difference if (|a-b| > D). D must be a positive number.

#### without ‘-d’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset-num2\_1.h5 dset-num2\_2.h5 /dset1**  dataset: </dset1> and </dset1>  size: [4] [4]  position dset1 dset1 difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] 0 10 10  [ 1 ] 0 20 20  [ 2 ] 0 30 30  [ 3 ] 0 40 40  4 differences found |

#### with ‘-d’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v -d 20 dset-num2\_1.h5 dset-num2\_2.h5 /dset1**  dataset: </dset1> and </dset1>  size: [4] [4]  position dset1 dset1 difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 2 ] 0 30 30  [ 3 ] 0 40 40  2 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

## ‘-p R’ or ‘–relative=R’

Print difference if (|(a-b)/b| > R). R must be a positive number. Number ‘a’ and ‘b’ is resorted before calculation.

#### without ‘-p’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset-num3\_1.h5 dset-num3\_2.h5 /dset**  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [3x2] [3x2]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 100 120 20  [ 0 1 ] 100 80 20  [ 1 0 ] 100 0 100  [ 1 1 ] 0 100 100  [ 2 1 ] 100 50 50  5 differences found |

#### 

#### with ‘-p’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v -p 0.05 dset-num3\_1.h5 dset-num3\_2.h5 /dset**  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [3x2] [3x2]  position dset dset difference relative  ------------------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 0 ] 100 120 20 0.200000  [ 0 1 ] 100 80 20 0.200000  [ 1 0 ] 100 0 100 1.000000  [ 1 1 ] 0 100 100 not comparable  [ 2 1 ] 100 50 50 0.500000  5 differences found  **$ h5diff -v -p 0.3 dset-num3\_1.h5 dset-num3\_2.h5 /dset**  dataset: </dset> and </dset>  size: [3x2] [3x2]  position dset dset difference relative  ------------------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 0 ] 100 0 100 1.000000  [ 1 1 ] 0 100 100 not comparable  [ 2 1 ] 100 50 50 0.500000  3 differences found |
| All EXIT CODE: 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| IMPROVE: Divided by 0 displays “not comparable” in relative column. Is the word “not comparable” correct? How about “N/A” ? |

## --use-system-epsilon

Same concept as option ‘-d D’. Only difference is using a ‘system defined value’ or a ‘pre-defined value’ instead of user specifying value.

: Print difference if (|a-b| > EPSILON), EPSILON is system defined value.

If the system epsilon is not defined, one of the following predefined values will be used:

FLT\_EPSILON = 1.19209E-07 for floating-point type

DBL\_EPSILON = 2.22045E-16 for double precision type

## --exclude-path “path”

Exclude the specified ‘path to an object’ when comparing files or groups. Refer to help page or RM for more details.

#### without ‘--exclude-path’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v groups1.h5 groups2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /grp1  x x /grp1/dset  x x /grp1/grp2  x x /grp1/grp2/dset  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  group : </grp1> and </grp1>  0 differences found  dataset: </grp1/dset> and </grp1/dset>  size: [3] [3]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] 0 1 1  1 differences found  group : </grp1/grp2> and </grp1/grp2>  0 differences found  dataset: </grp1/grp2/dset> and </grp1/grp2/dset>  size: [3] [3]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] 0 2 2  1 differences found |

#### with ‘--exclude-path’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v --exclude-path "/grp1/grp2" groups1.h5 groups2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /grp1  x x /grp1/dset  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  group : </grp1> and </grp1>  0 differences found  dataset: </grp1/dset> and </grp1/dset>  size: [3] [3]  position dset dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] 0 1 1  1 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

## --follow-symlinks

Follow symbolic links (soft links and external links) and compare the links' target objects. Refer to help page or RM for more details.

In this section ‘soft links’ are used to demonstrate the behavior.

#### without --follow-symlinks (soft link to a dataset )

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v softlinks1.h5 softlinks2.h5 /softlink2dset**  link : </softlink2dset> and </softlink2dset>  0 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 0 |

#### with --follow-symlinks ( soft link to a dataset )

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v --follow-symlinks softlinks1.h5 softlinks2.h5 /softlink2dset**  dataset: </softlink2dset> and </softlink2dset>  size: [3] [3]  position softlink2dset softlink2dset difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] 1 2 1  1 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

#### without --follow-symlinks ( soft link to a group )

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v softlinks1.h5 softlinks2.h5 /softlink2grp**  link : </softlink2grp> and </softlink2grp>  0 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 0 |

#### with --follow-symlinks ( soft link to a group )

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v --follow-symlinks softlinks1.h5 softlinks2.h5 /softlink2grp**  group1 group2  ---------------------------------------  x x  x x /gdset  group : </softlink2grp> and </softlink2grp>  0 differences found  dataset: </softlink2grp/gdset> and </softlink2grp/gdset>  size: [3] [3]  position gdset gdset difference  ---------------------------------------------------------  [ 1 ] 1 2 1  1 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

## --no-dangling-links

Treat dangling link as error. Must used with ‘--follow-symlinks’.

#### without ‘--no-dangling-links’

|  |
| --- |
| Both dangling links **$ h5diff -v danglelinks1.h5 danglelinks2.h5 /slink1**  dangling link: </slink1> and </slink1>  0 differences found  **$ h5diff -v danglelinks1.h5 danglelinks2.h5 /extlink1**  dangling link: </extlink1> and </extlink1>  0 differences found  **$ h5diff -v danglelinks1.h5 danglelinks2.h5 /extlink2**  dangling link: </extlink2> and </extlink2>  0 differences found  All EXIT CODE: 0 |

|  |
| --- |
| Only one side dangling link **$ h5diff -v danglelinks1.h5 danglelinks2.h5 /slink1 /slink2**  obj1 </slink1> is a dangling link.  1 differences found  **$ h5diff -v danglelinks1.h5 danglelinks2.h5 /extlink3 /extlink1**  obj2 </extlink1> is a dangling link.  1 differences found  All EXIT CODE: 1 |

#### with ‘--no-dangling-links’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v --follow-symlinks --no-dangling-links danglelinks1.h5** **danglelinks2.h5 /slink1**  Warning: </slink1> is a dangling link.  EXIT CODE: **2**  *NOTE: All the above cases are same. (display the first detected dangling link name)* |

#### only with ‘—follow-symlinks’

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v --follow-symlinks danglelinks1.h5 danglelinks2.h5 /slink1**  obj1 </slink1> is a dangling link.  1 differences found  EXIT CODE: 1  *NOTE: All the above cases are same. (display the first detected dangling link name)* |

## ‘-N’ or ‘--nan’

This option is to bypass comparing ‘not a number’ string symbol, so comparing time can be faster. Currently ‘not a number’ string symbol is cared to be compared as default.

#### without --nan (care NaN)

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v nans1.h5 nans2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /d1  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </d1> and </d1>  size: [5] [5]  position d1 d1 difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] nan 0.2 nan  [ 1 ] 0.1 nan nan  [ 2 ] 0.1 0.3 0.2  3 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

#### with --nan (not care NaN)

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v --nan nans1.h5 nans2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /d1  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </d1> and </d1>  size: [5] [5]  position d1 d1 difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] nan 0.2 nan  [ 1 ] 0.1 nan nan  [ 2 ] 0.1 0.3 0.2  [ 3 ] nan nan nan  4 differences found |
| EXIT CODE: 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| IMPROVE: Shouldn’t it be opposite way? So default should be not care NaN comparison. In the past ESDIS and Chicago customer needed to be told use –nan option if don’t care about NaN. |

## ‘-v1’ and ‘-v2’

These options were added to display details of the attribute status. Refer to ‘extra attribute’ examples in section 3.

## ‘-c’ or ‘--compare’

List objects that are not comparable. Refer to ‘non-comparable’ examples in section3.

# Handle common, extra or non-comparable object and attribute with results

### Overview:

In this section, there are three categories how user would look & feel with current h5diff in a big picture when expecting differences.

1. **When a difference is found in Common object or attribute**
2. **When difference is due to Extra object or attribute**
3. **When a difference is due to Non-comparable object or attribute**

Definition of terms:

* **Common object**: The absolute path to the object in two files is the same when comparing the two HDF5 files, or the object name within two specified groups is the same, when comparing the two HDF5 objects.
* **Common attribute**: The attribute name is the same for two objects.
* **Extra object**: An object that doesn’t exist in one file when comparing the two HDF5 files; or an object name that doesn’t exist within one of the specified groups, when comparing the two HDF5 objects.
* **Extra attribute**: An attribute name that doesn’t exist on the other object being compared.
* **Non-comparable object**: Two HDF5 objects that have a different datatype or dataspace.
* **Non-comparable attribute**: Two HDF5 attributes that have a different datatype or dataspace.

## When difference found in Common object or attribute

|  |
| --- |
| **Compare ‘object vs object’ or ‘file vs file’** |
| Display output   * Default (without ‘-v’ option)   + display number of differences with names of object or attribute * ‘–v’ option for details   + display details of the differences (data values)   + display number of differences with name of object or attribute |
| EXIT-CODE: 1 |

## When difference is due to Extra object or attribute

### 3.2.1 When extra object exists in any of the two files

|  |
| --- |
| Display output   * Default (without verbose option)   + None * Need to use ‘-v’ to identify extra object   + object status table on top |
| EXIT-CODE: 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: No output in default, which causes confusion to user. Some message should be displayed indicating there are differences in default. |

#### Example for extra object

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff extra-obj1.h5 extra-obj2.h5**  <no output> |
| **Use ‘-v’ to verify extra object**  **$ h5diff -v extra-obj1.h5 extra-obj2.h5**  file1 file2  ---------------------------------------  x x /  x x /do  x /mi  x /re  group : </> and </>  0 differences found  dataset: </do> and </do>  0 differences found |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

### 3.2.2 When extra attribute exists in any of the two objects

|  |
| --- |
| Display output   * Default (without verbose option)   + None * Need to use ‘-v1’ or ‘-v2’ to identify extra attribute   + attribute status line and list |
| EXIT-CODE: 0 ([HDFFV-7643](http://jira.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/browse/HDFFV-7643)) |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: No message output indicating the extra attribute(s) as default. Made user confused and caused inconvenience to figure out such differences, especially when there are many objects.  ISSUE: The exit code 1 would be sensible behavior, which indicates the two objects are different. |

#### Example for extra attribute

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff extra-attr1.h5 extra-attr2.h5 /do**  <No output>  EXIT-CODE : 0 |
| **$ h5diff -v extra-attr1.h5 extra-attr2.h5 /do**  dataset: </do> and </do>  attribute: <attr1 of </do>> and <attr1 of </do>>  0 differences found  0 differences found  EXIT-CODE : 0  <still can’t tell anything about extra attribute> |
| **$ h5diff -v1 extra-attr1.h5 extra-attr2.h5 /do**  dataset: </do> and </do>  **Attributes status: 1 common, 0 only in obj1, 1 only in obj2**  attribute: <attr1 of </do>> and <attr1 of </do>>  0 differences found  0 differences found  EXIT-CODE : 0 |
| **$ h5diff -v2 extra-attr1.h5 extra-attr2.h5 /do**  dataset: </do> and </do>  **obj1 obj2**  **--------------------------------------**  **x x attr1**  **x attr2**  **Attributes status: 1 common, 0 only in obj1, 1 only in obj2**  attribute: <attr1 of </do>> and <attr1 of </do>>  0 differences found  0 differences found  EXIT-CODE : 0 |

## When difference is due to Non-comparable object or attribute

**You can refer to non-comparable documents at :** <http://confluence.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/display/TOOLS/Non-Comparables>.

However these issues are not addressed yet in any document.

### Non-comparable object

|  |
| --- |
| Display output   * Default (without ‘–v’ or’ –c’)   + display “Some objects are not comparable” * With ‘–v’ or ‘-c’   + Display reason of not-compatible; each type or space of object |
| EXIT-CODE: 0 ([HDFFV-7628](http://jira.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/browse/HDFFV-7628)) |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE:   * Returning exit-code 1 would be sensible behavior. Turned out that this issue got previously entered as [HDFFV-7628](http://jira.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/browse/HDFFV-7628) by Elena to JIRA. * For the ‘file vs file’ , identified a bug from missing code for comparing different object types as common object. ([HDFFV-7644](http://jira.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/browse/HDFFV-7644)). |

#### Example for non-comparable object

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff obj-nocomparable1.h5 obj-nocomparable2.h5 /obj1**  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects.  EXIT CODE: 0 |
| **$ h5diff -c obj-nocomparable1.h5 obj-nocomparable2.h5 /obj1**  Not comparable: </obj1> is of class H5T\_INTEGER and </obj1> is of class H5T\_STRING  Not comparable: </obj1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_2 and </obj1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_ERROR  EXIT CODE: 0 |
| **$ h5diff -v obj-nocomparable1.h5 obj-nocomparable2.h5 /obj1**  dataset: </obj1> and </obj1>  Not comparable: </obj1> is of class H5T\_INTEGER and </obj1> is of class H5T\_STRING  Not comparable: </obj1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_2 and </obj1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_ERROR  0 differences found  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects.  EXIT CODE: 0 |

### Non-comparable attribute

|  |
| --- |
| Display output   * Default (without verbose options ‘-v’ or ‘-c’)   + display “Some objects are not comparable” * With ‘-v’ or ‘-c’   + Display reason of not-comparable; each type or space of not-comparable attribute |
| EXIT-CODE: 0 |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: Returning exit-code 1 would be sensible behavior. **Same exit code issue as the above non-comparable object.** ([HDFFV-7628](http://jira.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/browse/HDFFV-7628)) |

# Other behaviors

## Description

This section is for known issues that didn’t get covered by the other sections. This section may include some issues from other sections with a different point of view.

## Compare Empty file vs. Non empty file

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff empty\_file.h5 extra-obj1.h5**  <None> |
| EXIT-CODE : 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: No message as default. Some message should be displayed indicating the difference. This is same issue with the extra-object case |

## Different behaviors between dataset and attribute when type-sign difference exist

This issue was entered in JIRA as [HDFFV-7725](http://jira.hdfgroup.uiuc.edu/browse/HDFFV-7725). Not sure which one is intended behavior.

### Sign difference in dataset

The sign difference is treated as non-comparable.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -c dset\_attr\_sign1.h5 dset\_attr\_sign2.h5 /d1**  Not comparable: </d1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_2 and </d1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_NONE  EXIT-CODE : 0 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset\_attr\_sign1.h5 dset\_attr\_sign2.h5 /d1**  dataset: </d1> and </d1>  Warning: different storage datatype  </d1> has file datatype H5T\_STD\_I32LE  </d1> has file datatype H5T\_STD\_U32LE  Not comparable: </d1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_2 and </d1> has sign H5T\_SGN\_NONE  0 differences found  --------------------------------  Some objects are not comparable  --------------------------------  Use -c for a list of objects without details of differences.  EXIT-CODE : 0 |

### Sign difference in attribute

The sign difference is not treated as non-comparable.

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -c dset\_attr\_sign1.h5 dset\_attr\_sign2.h5 /g1**  attribute: <attr of </g1>> and <attr of </g1>>  2 differences found  EXIT-CODE : 1 |

#### Show details with ‘-v’ option

|  |
| --- |
| **$ h5diff -v dset\_attr\_sign1.h5 dset\_attr\_sign2.h5 /g1**  group1 group2  ---------------------------------------  x x  group : </g1> and </g1>  0 differences found  Warning: different storage datatype  <attr> has file datatype H5T\_STD\_I32LE  <attr> has file datatype H5T\_STD\_U32LE  attribute: <attr of </g1>> and <attr of </g1>>  size: [2] [2]  position attr of </g1> attr of </g1> difference  ------------------------------------------------------------  [ 0 ] 1 3 2  [ 1 ] 2 4 2  2 differences found  EXIT-CODE : 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| ISSUE: When sign difference exists in dataset, it’s treated as non-comparable. When sign difference exists in attribute, it’s not treated as non-comparable. |

# Appendix A – List of example HDF5 files (in alphabetic order)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **danglelinks1.h5** | **danglelinks2.h5** |
| HDF5 "danglelinks1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  EXTERNAL\_LINK "extlink1" {  TARGETFILE "danglelinks2.h5"  TARGETPATH "later"  }  EXTERNAL\_LINK "extlink2" {  TARGETFILE "not-yet.h5"  TARGETPATH "not-yet"  }  EXTERNAL\_LINK "extlink3" {  TARGETFILE "danglelinks2.h5"  TARGETPATH "/dset"  DATASET "/dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0, 0  }  }  }  SOFTLINK "slink1" {  LINKTARGET "/not-yet"  }  SOFTLINK "slink2" {  LINKTARGET "/not-yet"  }  }  } | HDF5 "danglelinks2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0, 0  }  }  EXTERNAL\_LINK "extlink1" {  TARGETFILE "danglelinks1.h5"  TARGETPATH "later"  }  EXTERNAL\_LINK "extlink2" {  TARGETFILE "later.h5"  TARGETPATH "later"  }  EXTERNAL\_LINK "extlink3" {  TARGETFILE "later.h5"  TARGETPATH "later"  }  SOFTLINK "slink1" {  LINKTARGET "/later"  }  SOFTLINK "slink2" {  LINKTARGET "/dset"  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-array1.h5** | **dset-array2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-array1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "array" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 3 ) / ( 2, 3 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0, 0,  (1,0): 1, 1, 1  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-array2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "array" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 3 ) / ( 2, 3 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 10, 0,  (1,0): 10, 1, 10  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset\_attr\_sign1.h5** | **dset\_attr\_sign2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset\_attr\_sign1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "d1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 2  }  }  GROUP "g1" {  ATTRIBUTE "attr" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 2  }  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset\_attr\_sign2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "d1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_U32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 3, 4  }  }  GROUP "g1" {  ATTRIBUTE "attr" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_U32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 3, 4  }  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset\_empty1.h5** | **dset\_empty2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset\_empty1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "empty\_d1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0,  (1,0): 0, 0  }  }  DATASET "empty\_d2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_IEEE\_F32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0,  (1,0): 0, 0  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset\_empty2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "empty\_d1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0,  (1,0): 0, 0  }  }  DATASET "empty\_d2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_IEEE\_F32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0,  (1,0): 0, 0  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-num1\_1.h5** | **dset-num1\_2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-num1\_1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 1, 2,  (1,0): 3, 4  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-num1\_2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0,  (1,0): 0, 0  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-num2\_1.h5** | **dset-num2\_2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-num2\_1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 4 ) / ( 4 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0, 0, 0, 0  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-num2\_2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 4 ) / ( 4 ) }  DATA {  (0): 10, 20, 30, 40  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-num3\_1.h5** | **dset-num3\_2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-num3\_1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3, 2 ) / ( 3, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 100, 100,  (1,0): 100, 0,  (2,0): 0, 100  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-num3\_2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3, 2 ) / ( 3, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 120, 80,  (1,0): 0, 100,  (2,0): 0, 50  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-str1\_1.h5** | **dset-str1\_2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-str1\_1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "string" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STRING {  STRSIZE 3;  STRPAD H5T\_STR\_NULLTERM;  CSET H5T\_CSET\_ASCII;  CTYPE H5T\_C\_S1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): "yyy", "zzz"  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-str1\_2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "string" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STRING {  STRSIZE 3;  STRPAD H5T\_STR\_NULLTERM;  CSET H5T\_CSET\_ASCII;  CTYPE H5T\_C\_S1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): "cat", "dog"  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-str2\_1.h5** | **dset-str2\_2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-str2\_1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "note" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STRING {  STRSIZE 13;  STRPAD H5T\_STR\_NULLPAD;  CSET H5T\_CSET\_ASCII;  CTYPE H5T\_C\_S1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): "This is a dog", "This is a dog", "This is a dog"  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-str2\_2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "note" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STRING {  STRSIZE 13;  STRPAD H5T\_STR\_NULLPAD;  CSET H5T\_CSET\_ASCII;  CTYPE H5T\_C\_S1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): "This is a dog", "This is a cat", "This is a dog"  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dset-type-array1.h5** | **dset-type-array2.h5** |
| HDF5 "dset-type-array1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "type-array" {  DATATYPE H5T\_ARRAY { [3] H5T\_STD\_I32LE }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): [ 0, 0, 0 ], [ 1, 1, 1 ]  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "dset-type-array2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "type-array" {  DATATYPE H5T\_ARRAY { [3] H5T\_STD\_I32LE }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): [ 0, 10, 0 ], [ 10, 1, 10 ]  }  }  }  } |

|  |
| --- |
| **empty\_file.h5** |
| HDF5 "empty\_file.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  }  } |

|  |
| --- |
| **enum\_invalid.h5** |
| HDF5 "enum\_invalid.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_ENUM {  H5T\_STD\_I32LE;  "YIN" 0;  "YANG" 1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 6 ) / ( 6 ) }  DATA {  (0): 09:00:00:00, YIN, 09:00:00:00, YIN, 09:00:00:00, YIN  }  }  DATASET "dset2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_ENUM {  H5T\_STD\_I32LE;  "YIN" 0;  "YANG" 1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 6 ) / ( 6 ) }  DATA {  (0): 09:00:00:00, 09:00:00:00, YIN, YIN, 09:00:00:00, YANG  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **extra-attr1.h5** | **extra-attr2.h5** |
| HDF5 "extra-attr1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "do" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 1  }  ATTRIBUTE "attr1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1 ) / ( 1 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1  }  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "extra-attr2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "do" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 1  }  ATTRIBUTE "attr1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1 ) / ( 1 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1  }  }  ATTRIBUTE "attr2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1 ) / ( 1 ) }  DATA {  (0): 2  }  }  }  }  } |
|  | The object “do” has extra attribute “attr2” |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **extra-obj1.h5** | **extra-obj2.h5** |
| HDF5 "extra-obj1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "do" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 1  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "extra-obj2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "do" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 1  }  }  GROUP "mi" {  }  DATASET "re" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1, 2 ) / ( 1, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 3, 3  }  }  }  } |
|  | This file has extra object dataset “re” and group “mi”. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **groups1.h5** | **groups2.h5** |
| HDF5 "groups1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  GROUP "grp1" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 0, 0  }  }  GROUP "grp2" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 2, 0, 0  }  }  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "groups2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  GROUP "grp1" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 1, 0  }  }  GROUP "grp2" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 2, 2, 0  }  }  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **mix-nocomparable1.h5** | **mix-nocomparable2.h5** |
| HDF5 "mix-nocomparable1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  GROUP "obj1" {  }  DATATYPE "obj2" H5T\_STD\_I32LE;  DATASET "obj3" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 1 ) / ( 2, 1 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 1,  (1,0): 0  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "mix-nocomparable2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "obj1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2, 2 ) / ( 2, 2 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 1,  (1,0): 1, 0  }  }  GROUP "obj2" {  }  DATATYPE "obj3" H5T\_STD\_I32LE;  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **nans1.h5** | **nans2.h5** |
| HDF5 "nans1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "d1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_IEEE\_F32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 5 ) / ( 5 ) }  DATA {  (0): nan, 0.1, 0.1, nan, 0.1  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "nans2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "d1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_IEEE\_F32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 5 ) / ( 5 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0.2, nan, 0.3, nan, 0.1  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **obj-nocomparable1.h5** | **obj-nocomparable2.h5** |
| HDF5 "obj-nocomparable1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "obj1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 2  }  }  DATASET "obj2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1, 1 ) / ( 1, 1 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 10  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "obj-nocomparable2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "obj1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STRING {  STRSIZE 5;  STRPAD H5T\_STR\_NULLPAD;  CSET H5T\_CSET\_ASCII;  CTYPE H5T\_C\_S1;  }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1, 1 ) / ( 1, 1 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): "abcde"  }  }  DATASET "obj2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 1, 1 ) / ( 1, 1 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 10  }  }  }  } |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ref-dsetreg1.h5** | **ref-dsetreg2.h5** |
| HDF5 "ref-dsetreg1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "Dset\_REGREF" {  DATATYPE H5T\_REFERENCE { H5T\_STD\_REF\_DSETREG }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  DATASET /dset {(0,1), (2,11), (1,0), (2,4)},  DATASET /dset {(0,0)-(0,2), (0,11)-(0,13), (2,0)-(2,2), (2,11)-(2,13)}  }  }  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I8LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3, 16 ) / ( 3, 16 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,  (1,0): 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,  (2,0): 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0  }  }  }  } | HDF5 "ref-dsetreg2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "Dset\_REGREF" {  DATATYPE H5T\_REFERENCE { H5T\_STD\_REF\_DSETREG }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 2 ) / ( 2 ) }  DATA {  DATASET /dset {(0,1), (2,11), (1,0), (2,4)},  DATASET /dset {(0,0)-(0,2), (0,11)-(0,13), (2,0)-(2,2), (2,11)-(2,13)}  }  }  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I8LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3, 16 ) / ( 3, 16 ) }  DATA {  (0,0): 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,  (1,0): 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2,  (2,0): 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3  }  }  }  } |

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| **ref-obj1.h5** | **ref-obj2.h5** |
| HDF5 "ref-obj1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "Dset1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0, 0, 0  }  }  DATASET "Dset\_OBJREF" {  DATATYPE H5T\_REFERENCE { H5T\_STD\_REF\_OBJECT }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): DATASET 800 /Dset1 , GROUP 1400 /Group ,  (2): DATATYPE 2104 /NamedDatatype  }  }  GROUP "Group" {  DATASET "Dset2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0, 0, 0  }  }  }  DATATYPE "NamedDatatype" H5T\_STD\_I32LE;  }  } | HDF5 "ref-obj2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "Dset1" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 0, 0  }  }  DATASET "Dset\_OBJREF" {  DATATYPE H5T\_REFERENCE { H5T\_STD\_REF\_OBJECT }  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): DATASET 800 /Dset1 , GROUP 1400 /Group ,  (2): DATATYPE 2104 /NamedDatatype  }  }  GROUP "Group" {  DATASET "Dset2" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 0, 0, 2  }  }  }  DATATYPE "NamedDatatype" H5T\_STD\_I8LE;  }  } |

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| **softlinks1.h5** | **softlinks2.h5** |
| HDF5 "softlinks1.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 0, 0  }  }  GROUP "grp" {  DATASET "gdset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 1, 0  }  }  }  SOFTLINK "softlink2dset" {  LINKTARGET "/dset"  }  SOFTLINK "softlink2grp" {  LINKTARGET "/grp"  }  }  } | HDF5 "softlinks2.h5" {  GROUP "/" {  DATASET "dset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 2, 0, 0  }  }  GROUP "grp" {  DATASET "gdset" {  DATATYPE H5T\_STD\_I32LE  DATASPACE SIMPLE { ( 3 ) / ( 3 ) }  DATA {  (0): 1, 2, 0  }  }  }  SOFTLINK "softlink2dset" {  LINKTARGET "/dset"  }  SOFTLINK "softlink2grp" {  LINKTARGET "/grp"  }  }  } |

# Acknowledgements

This work is supported by a commercial client of the HDF group.

# Revision History

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| *August 11, 2011:* | Version 1 draft 1 circulated for directional comment within The HDF Group. |
| *August 24, 2011:* | Version 1 draft 2 circulated for directional comment within The HDF Group. |
| *November 22, 2011:* | Version 1 draft 3 initially done. Reviewed and discussed with Peter. |
| *December 01, 2011:* | Version2 circulated for review and discussion within The HDF Group. |