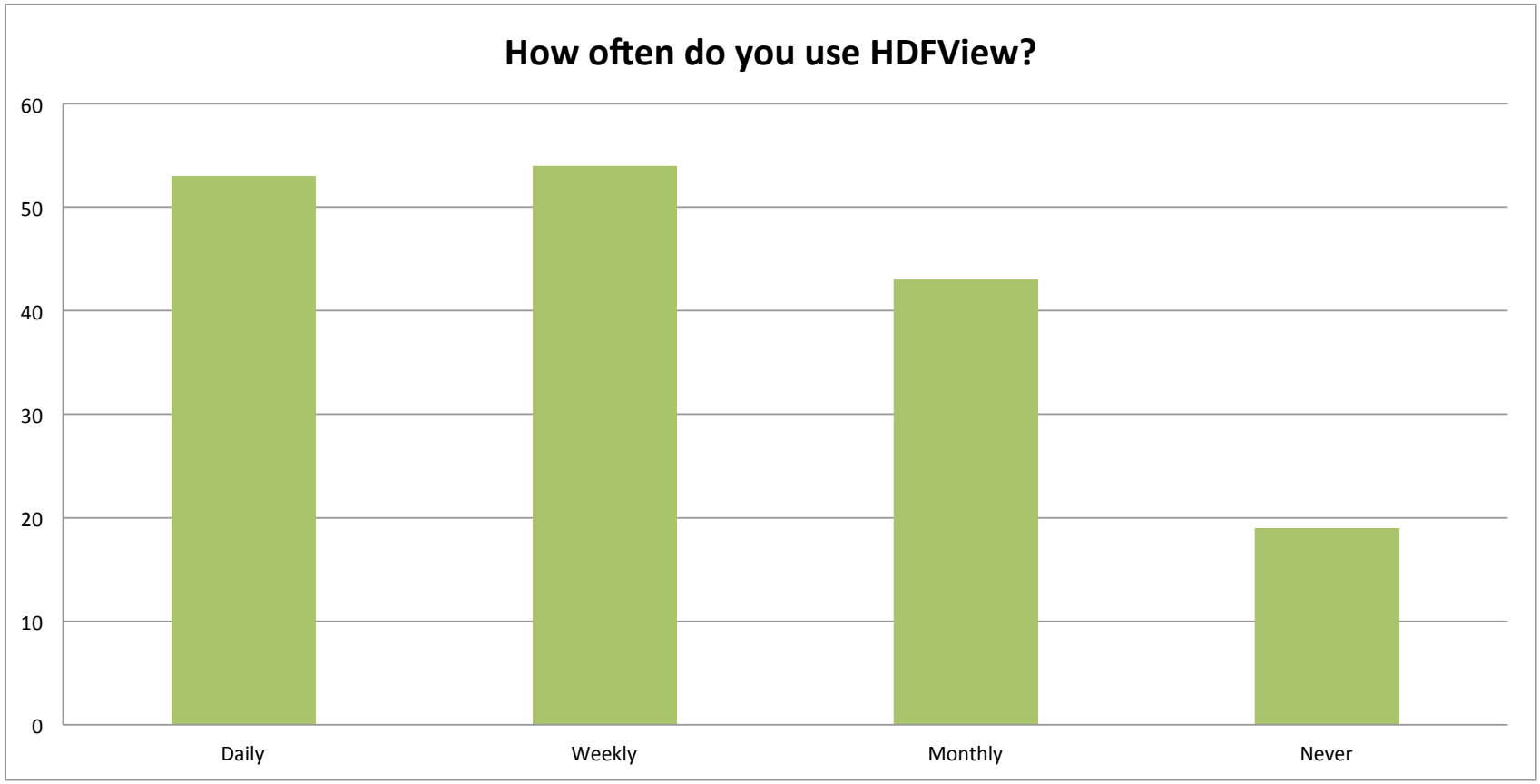
HDFView User Survey

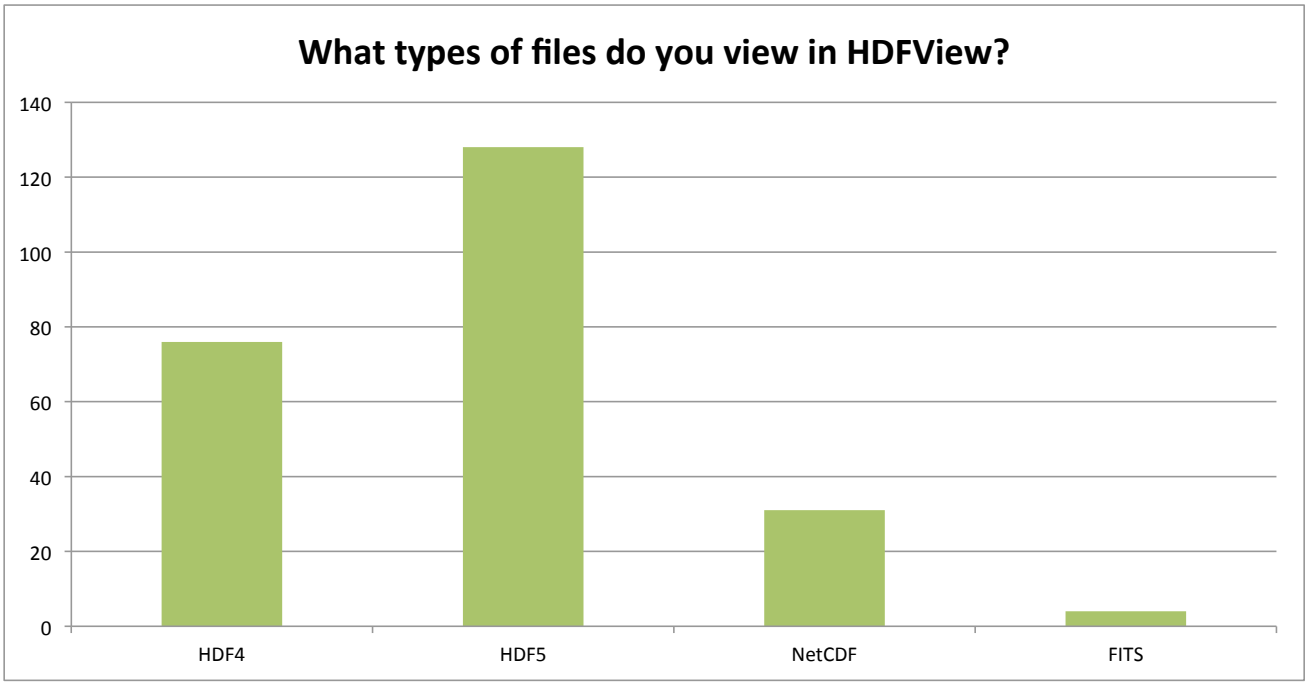
Use of HDFView:

Answer Options	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Never	Rating Average	Response Count
How often do you use HDFView?	53	54	43	19	2.17	169



HDFView User Survey

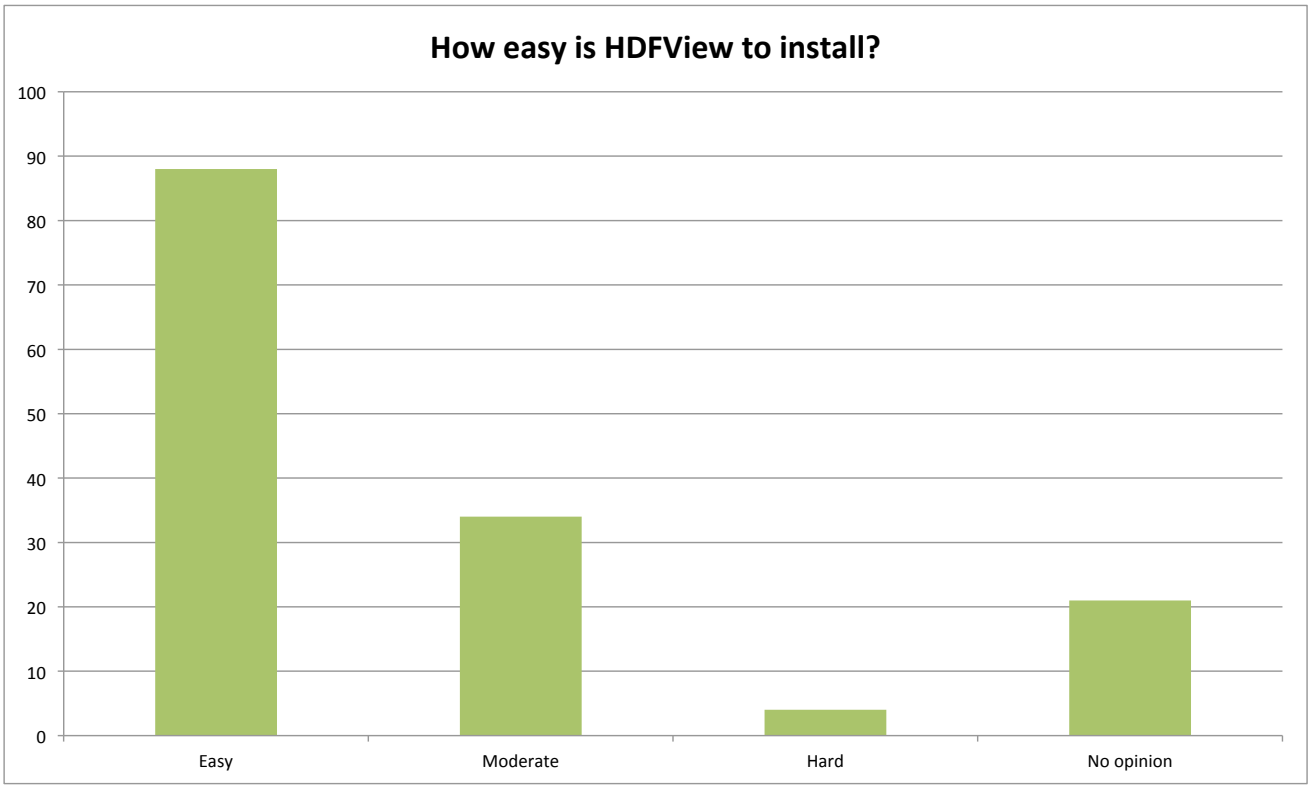
File format:					
Answer Options	**HDF4**	**HDF5**	**NetCDF**	**FITS**	**Response Count**
What types of files do you view in HDFView?	76	128	31	4	162



HDFView User Survey

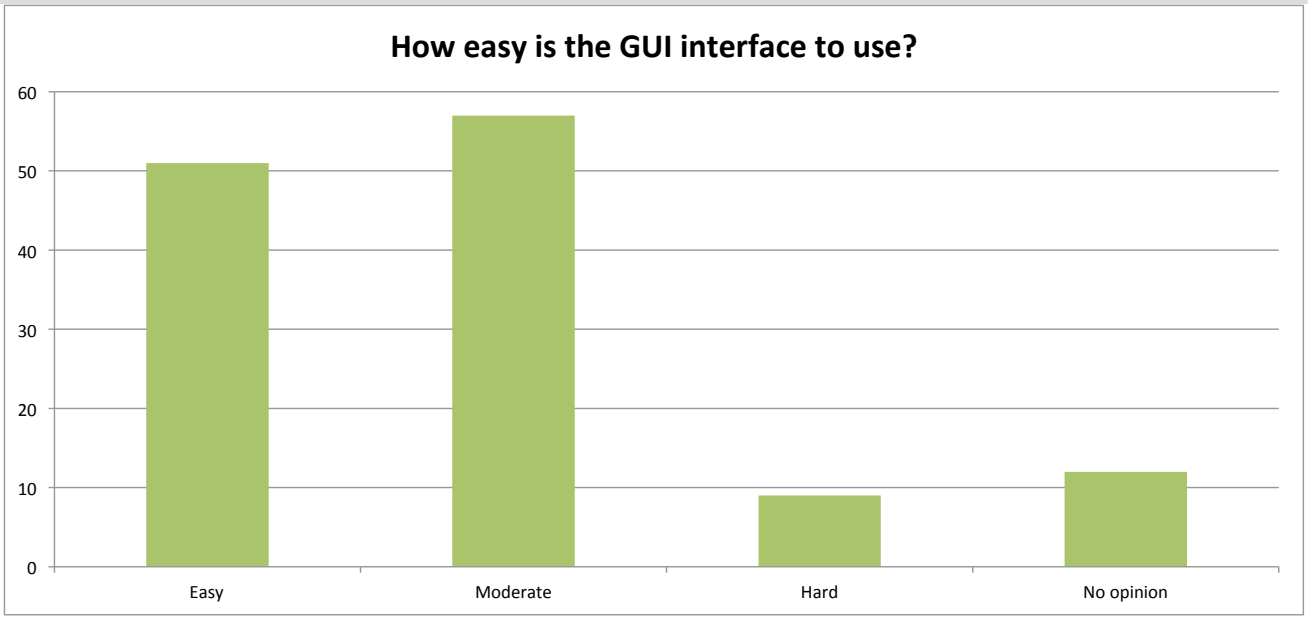
General questions:

Answer Options	Easy	Moderate	Hard	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
How easy is HDFView to install?	88	34	4	21	1.71	147



HDFView User Survey

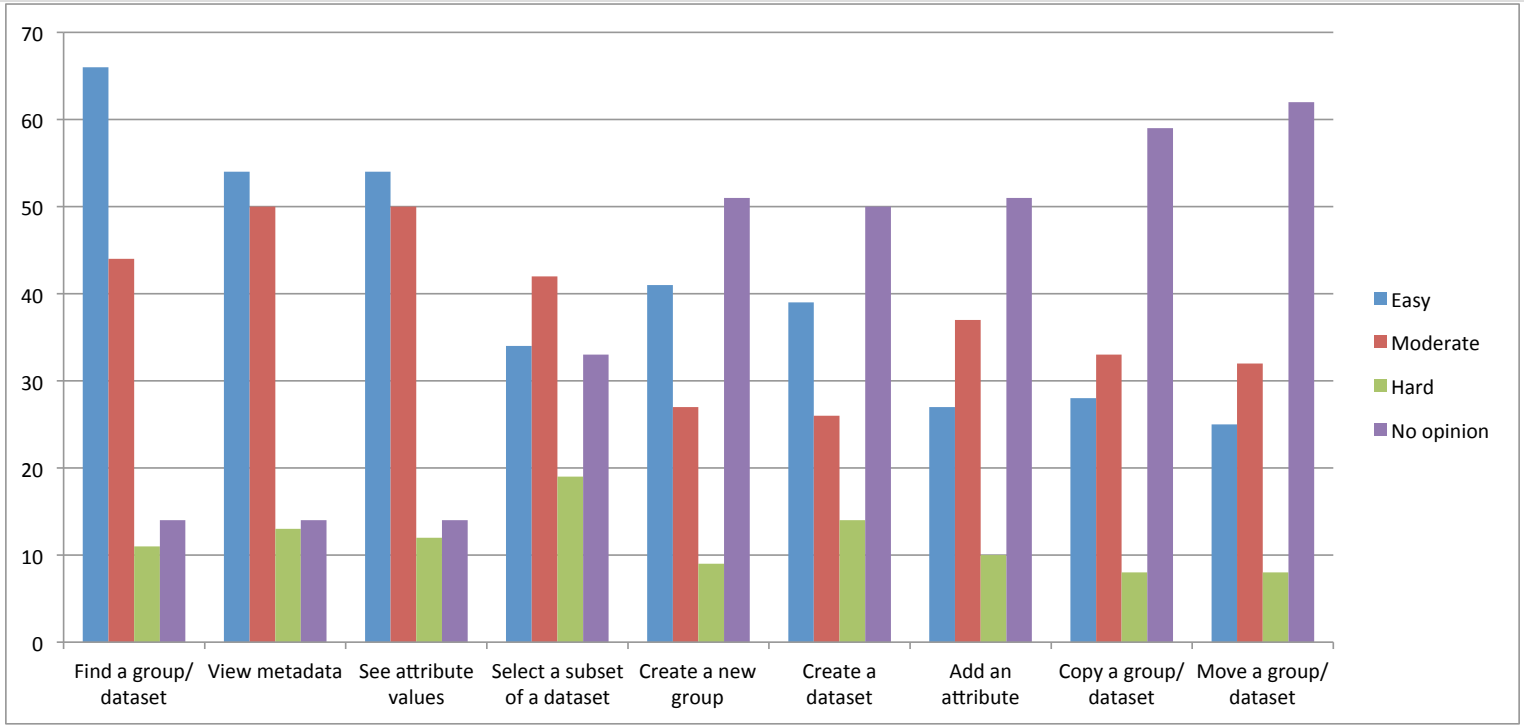
General questions:						
Answer Options	**Easy**	**Moderate**	**Hard**	**No opinion**	**Rating Average**	**Response Count**
How easy is the GUI interface to use?	51	57	9	12	1.86	129



HDFView User Survey

How easy or difficult is it to work with file structure?

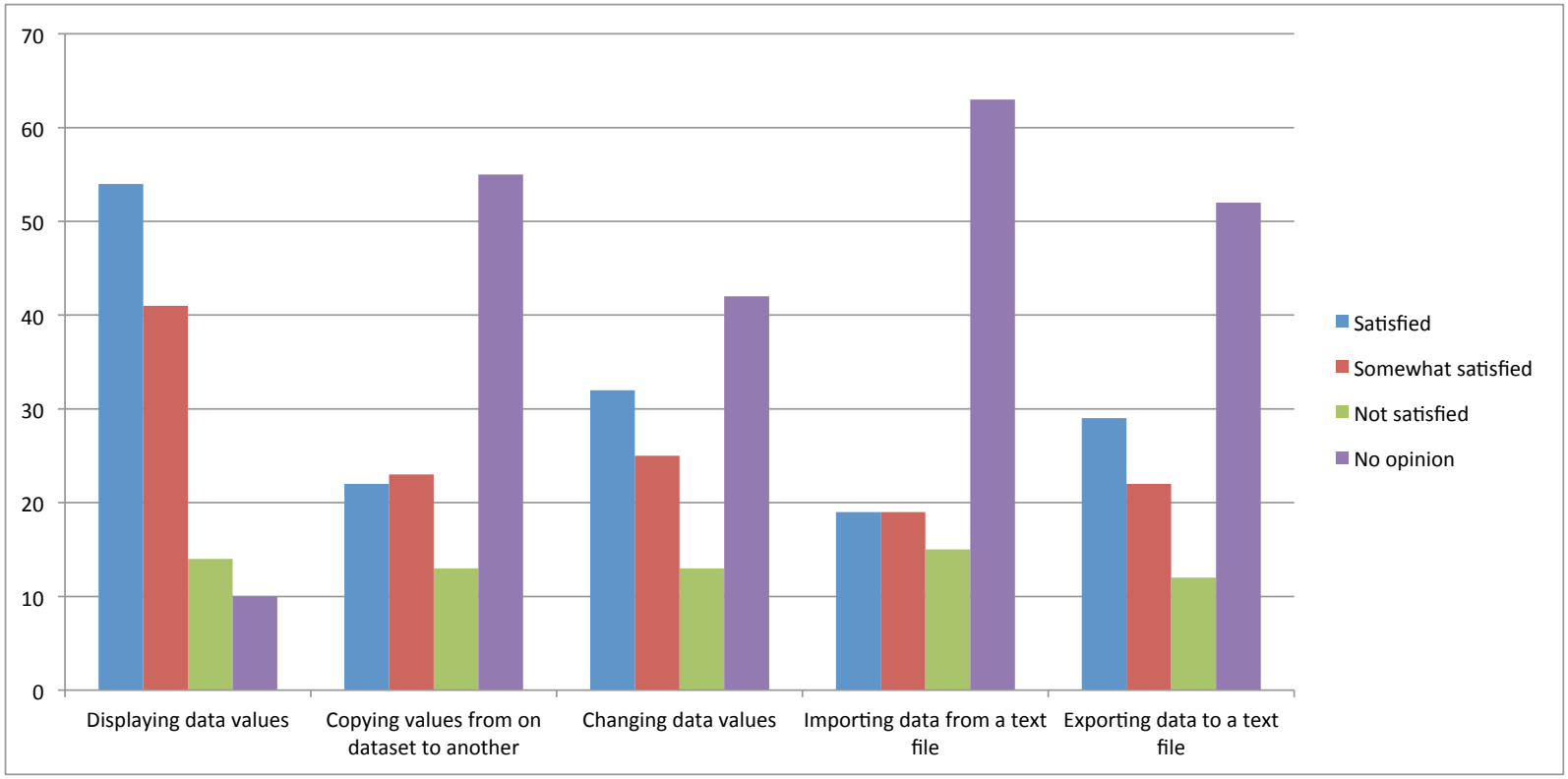
Answer Options	Easy	Moderate	Hard	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Find a group/dataset	66	44	11	14	1.80	135
View metadata	54	50	13	14	1.90	131
See attribute values	54	50	12	14	1.89	130
Select a subset of a dataset	34	42	19	33	2.40	128
Create a new group	41	27	9	51	2.55	128
Create a dataset	39	26	14	50	2.58	129
Add an attribute	27	37	10	51	2.68	125
Copy a group/dataset	28	33	8	59	2.77	128
Move a group/dataset	25	32	8	62	2.84	127



HDFView User Survey

How satisfied are you with the data handling features in HDFView?

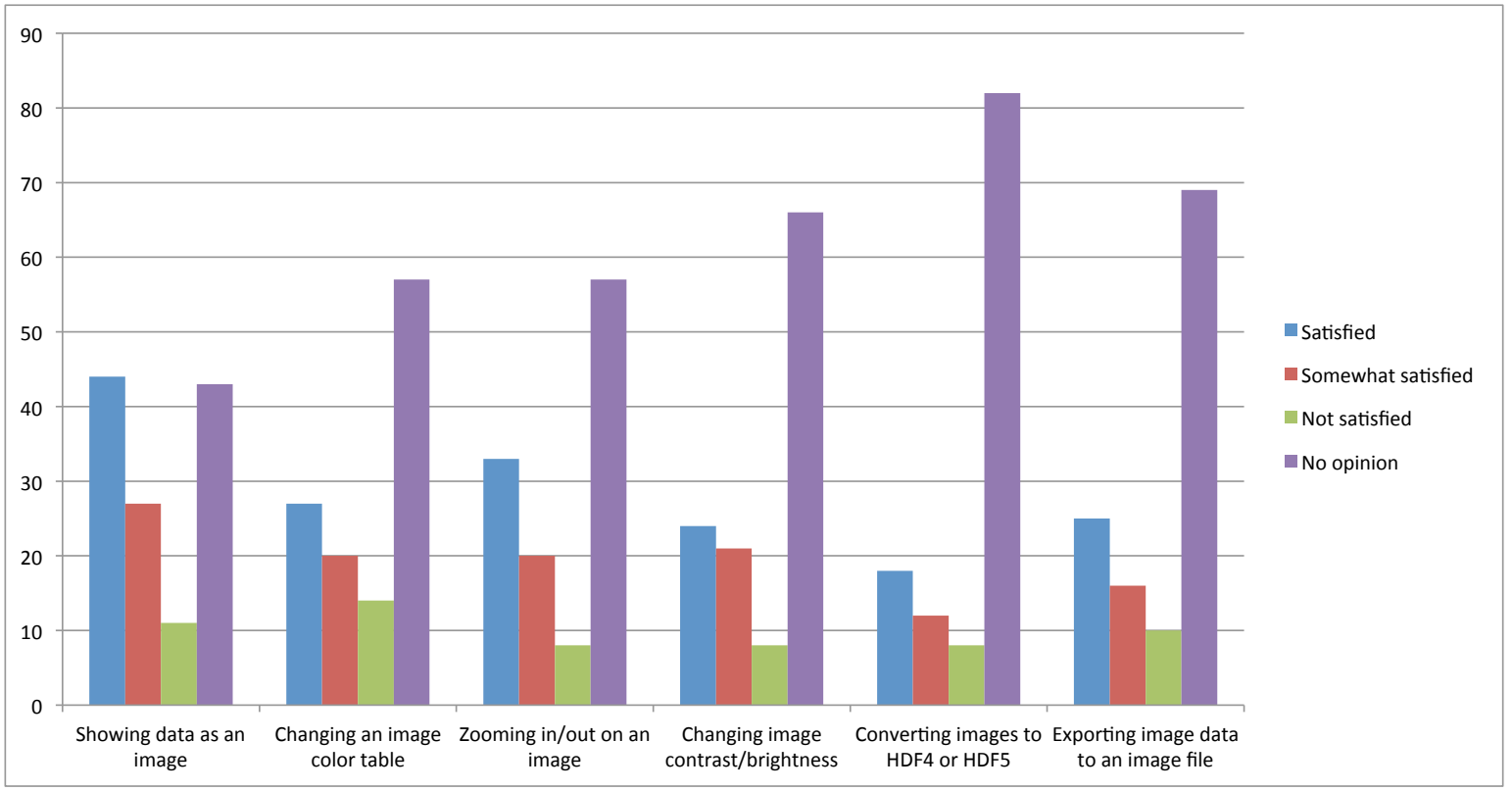
Answer Options	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not satisfied	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Displaying data values	54	41	14	10	1.83	119
Copying values from on dataset to another	22	23	13	55	2.89	113
Changing data values	32	25	13	42	2.58	112
Importing data from a text file	19	19	15	63	3.05	116
Exporting data to a text file	29	22	12	52	2.76	115



HDFView User Survey

How satisfied are you with the image handling features in HDFView?

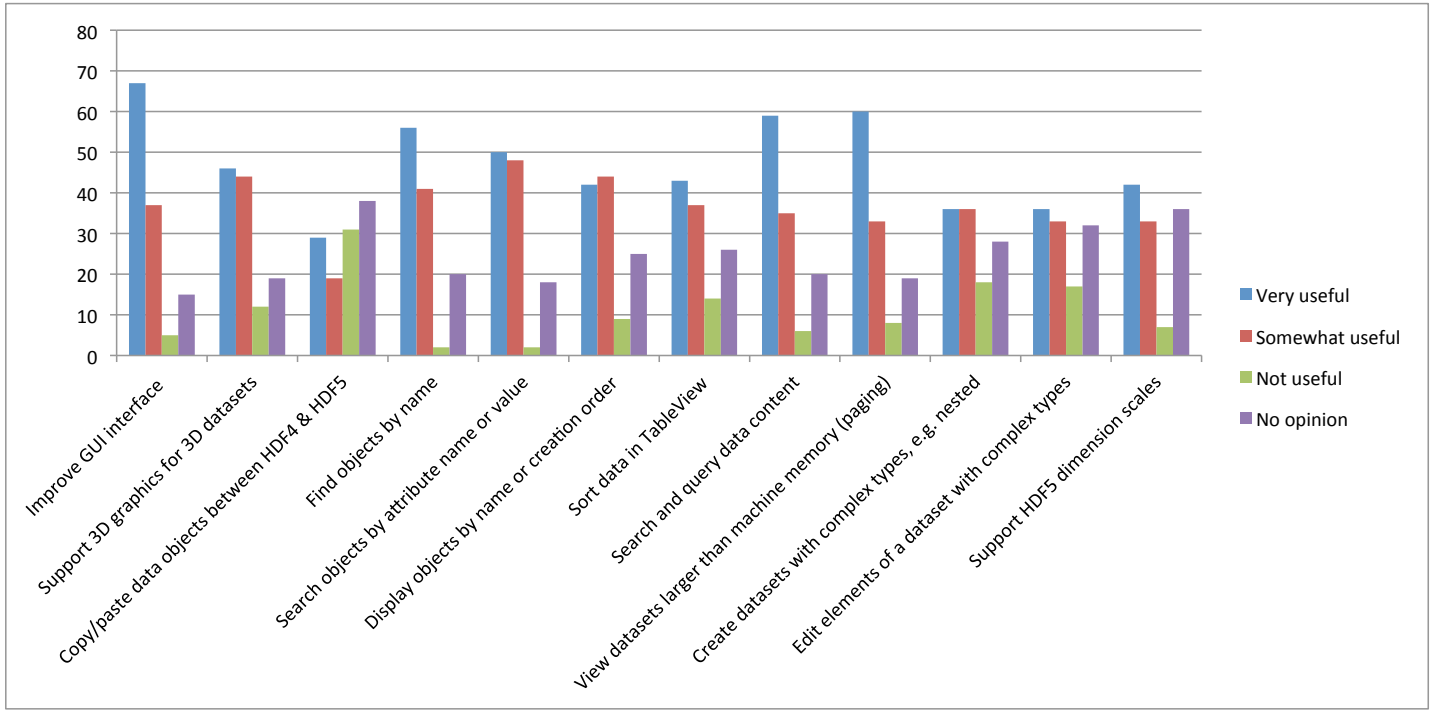
Answer Options	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not satisfied	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Showing data as an image	44	27	11	43	2.42	125
Changing an image color table	27	20	14	57	2.86	118
Zooming in/out on an image	33	20	8	57	2.75	118
Changing image contrast/brightness	24	21	8	66	2.97	119
Converting images to HDF4 or HDF5	18	12	8	82	3.28	120
Exporting image data to an image file	25	16	10	69	3.03	120



HDFView User Survey

How useful would the following new features be to you?

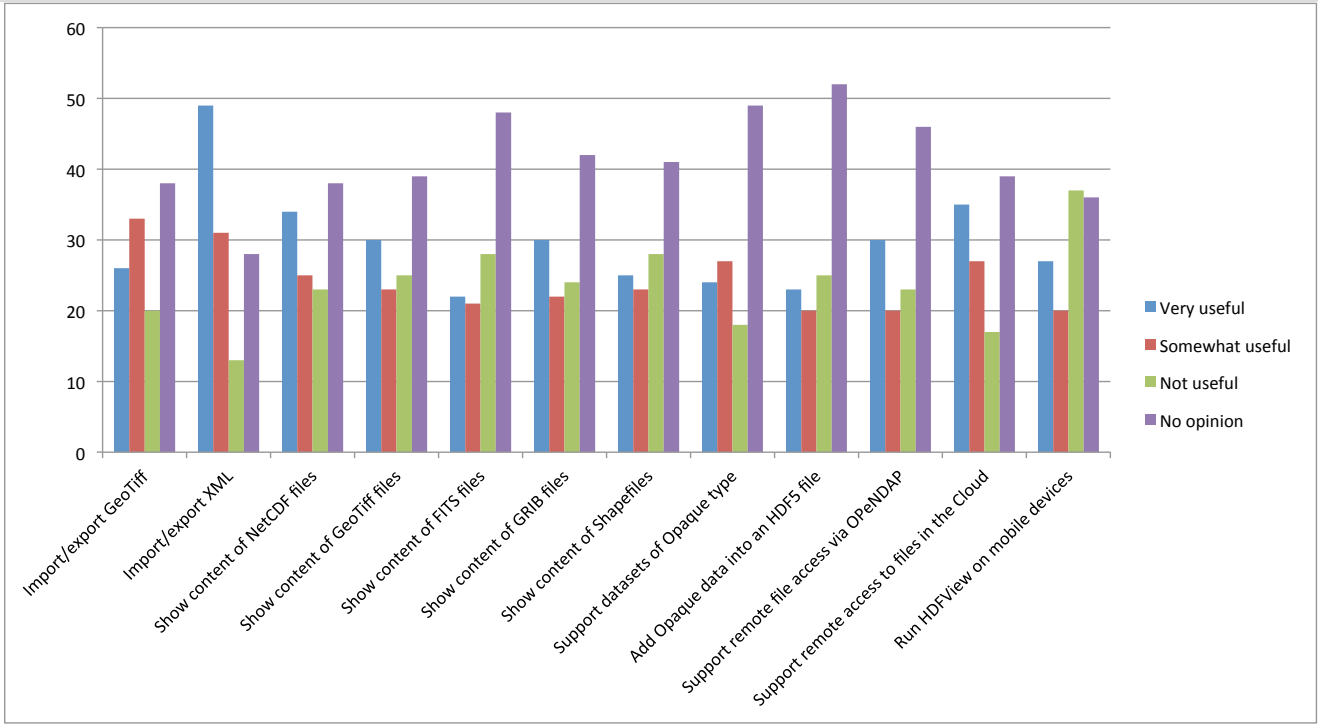
Answer Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Improve GUI interface	67	37	5	15	1.74	124
Support 3D graphics for 3D datasets	46	44	12	19	2.03	121
HDF5	29	19	31	38	2.67	117
Find objects by name	56	41	2	20	1.88	119
Search objects by attribute name or value	50	48	2	18	1.90	118
Display objects by name or creation order	42	44	9	25	2.14	120
Sort data in TableView	43	37	14	26	2.19	120
Search and query data content	59	35	6	20	1.89	120
(paging)	60	33	8	19	1.88	120
nested compound types	36	36	18	28	2.32	118
Edit elements of a dataset with complex types	36	33	17	32	2.38	118
Support HDF5 dimension scales	42	33	7	36	2.31	118



HDFView User Survey

How useful would the following new features be to you?

Answer Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Import/export GeoTiff	26	33	20	38	2.60	117
Import/export XML	49	31	13	28	2.17	121
Show content of NetCDF files	34	25	23	38	2.54	120
Show content of GeoTiff files	30	23	25	39	2.62	117
Show content of FITS files	22	21	28	48	2.86	119
Show content of GRIB files	30	22	24	42	2.66	118
Show content of Shapefiles	25	23	28	41	2.73	117
Support datasets of Opaque type	24	27	18	49	2.78	118
Add Opaque data into an HDF5 file	23	20	25	52	2.88	120
Support remote file access via OPeNDAP	30	20	23	46	2.71	119
Support remote access to files in the Cloud	35	27	17	39	2.51	118
Run HDFView on mobile devices	27	20	37	36	2.68	120



HDFView User Survey

Other suggestions and comments?

Response #	User comments
1	very good and very nice ----- 8/1/2012 10:57 AMView Responses
2	HDFVIew is a useful tool. The main improvement that would be useful for me is plotting data. ----- 7/30/2012 10:25 AMView Responses
3	Impossible to launch due to a "Could not create the java virtual machine" error ----- 7/30/2012 4:30 AMView Responses
4	Please put back the ability to specify the HDF file name to load on the command line! That is: hdfview myfile.h5 should load the h5 file. Thanks. ----- 7/14/2012 2:49 PMView Responses ----- One important thing that is missing at this time is to support fill/masked values when converting a dataset into an image. For example, the value range dialog could have a numeric entry field where the user can specify a (or several) value(s) and the RGB color(s) to use for it. All these sentinel values would be ignored in the valid range specifier and histograms that will focus on "real" physical values ----- 6/28/2012 3:44 AMView Responses
5	Downloaded your HDFView 2.8 to help open an .hdf file. My firewall warned me not to download this as it could harm my computer, but trusting your website I bypassed this and downloaded it anyway. However when I try to open the .hdf file - nothing happens! ----- 6/26/2012 5:13 PMView Responses ----- Get rid of Java ----- 6/20/2012 2:51 AMView Responses
6	If there was a way to *easily* scroll a dataset to a particular row / column / cell that could manually entered, that would be awesome. This is probably the most frustrating part about HDFView for me personally. (Something like "go to line" Ctrl+L in Eclipse, where you enter the line number and it highlights that line.) ----- 5/21/2012 8:54 AMView Responses
7	Please keep hdfview simple and robust. I use it mainly to view metadata and structure of remote sensing files where there are dedicated apps (BEAM, SeaDAS, ENVI, etc.) with loads of "features" including scripting, but which hide low-level details that students need to see and that can be helpful in debugging. The biggest issue I have is with metadata display of very long strings and vectors. I'd prefer a truncated display in hdfview with an option to view the complete string in an external editor (so I can reformat and cut/paste substrings). My most common use case is the list of input files used to construct a level-3 file. When there are problems with the level-3 file, one may need to examine all the input files, which usually means creating a list that is used to download the needed files. I am currently testing Ubuntu 12.04 LTS (x86_64). While hdfview 2.8 installed easily on a desktop and a laptop, the installer screen is blank in a VirtualBox VM. The scripts run "strings /lib/lic.so.6". Ubuntu has moved libc to /usr/x86_64-linux-gnu, resulting in a "no such file" error from "strings". ----- 5/10/2012 8:41 AMView Responses
8	Bug-reporting Trying to use the 32 bit version on Mac OSX 10.5.8 failed with a java.io.IOException (Unsupported file format) Trying the 64 bit version on Mac OSX 10.7 (Lion) worked correctly. Both vesrions installed without apparent errors ----- 5/9/2012 4:59 AMView Responses
9	very good ----- 5/3/2012 5:57 AMView Responses
10	I downloaded and installed the OSX version very easily. However, it was unable to read any HDF5 file that I created on another machine. The h5dump utility lists the file contents just fine, and interacting with the file works fine in C and Python (via h5py). Worse still, there's no obvious help resource listed on the website (e.g., mailing list, forums, IRC, etc.). As far as I can tell, the software simply does not work at all. ----- 4/27/2012 7:38 PMView Responses ----- I have not use it yet! ----- 4/17/2012 4:49 AMView Responses
11	So, far I only use HDFView for viewing HDF5 files, but not for modifying them. This explains the several "no opinion" matches on items regarding editing features. ----- 4/11/2012 2:17 AMView Responses
12	HDFView is easy to install on Windows. That is good because then I can send links to colleagues and know that they can easily install HDFView without help. Most important for me is that the installers remain at their present high quality. ----- 4/3/2012 4:57 AMView Responses
13	Identify (or document) the version number. Throughout the HDFGroup descriptions, I have NO IDEA what version of a program I'm looking at until I download and install it. The "New features of this Release" doesn't even mention the release! How am I supposed to know (1) what the current release is, and (2) how it differs from whatever version I currently have All I see are hdfview_install_xxxxxnn.bin files.
14	- It would be nice to have a clear representation whether a file is open read-only or writeable. - Before saving changes, HDFView might check, if the file on disk changed to prevent data corruption by concurrent writes. - The color scale of an image view should adjust, if a new part of the data is displayed, or there should be an option to re-adjust the color scale. - it would be nice to have a warning, if the data to be displayed would take a long time to load.
15	HDFView Wishlist 0. Overall, HDFView has come a long way and is tremendously valuable, multi-platform tool for HDF5/HDF4. These next are just a few suggestions for improvements: 1. For each release, display its VERSION Identifier on the release html page! 2. Reduce steps involved to view attributes and/or metadata stored as attributes!! The GUI sequence to view attributes via Show Properties buries this extended functionality deeper than it needs to be. 3. Support import or injest of simple orthogonal (header-less) 2D raw binary files (whose endian-ness, dimensions, and datatype are known/declared), into a given same-structured HDF5 dataset. 4. Support ingest (and export) of a whole text file (e.g. as a ragged-right-edge int8 array of strings, or unicode type) in ONE simple step. 5. Support ingest, storage, display, and export of at least a simple instance of 'tree' shaped (nested hierarchies) data structures, but especially especially JSON and XML. 6. Support auto-creation, display, and optional storage of an MD5 (or SHA-1, SHA-256 etc) for a given dataset or attribute. 7. Support auto-creation, display, and optional storage in an HDF5 of a uuid. 8. Support conversion of a HDF5 2D dataset to a GeoTIFF image, and support import of a GeoTIFF into an empty HDF5 dataset (e.g. prompt for whatever minimal GeoTIFF parameters are required to define the spatial-reference system or CRS, or, offer to import the SRS or CRS information from an external text file in some documented well-known-format). Thanks for listening!

16 1. Support Mac shortcuts on Mac (that is, Command+C instead of Ctrl+C), or at least make it configurable. 2. Remember the last opened folder - it is tiresome to navigate from the HDF home folder each time I restart the application. (may be, even add buttons for favorite folders) 3. Support native file dialogs on different OSs.
17 iphone/android apps would be awesome!
18 You can open FITS files? What version? Most of the frustration is setting the data ranges for images. This feature seems to work on some of our machines and not on others. I am pretty sure they all use the same version of HDFView.
19 If hyperslab references could be resolved for image or table viewing, that would be extremely useful.
20 Please expand documentation. User guide needs to be longer and have more examples. Possibly a seperate "quick start guide" to explain basic usage and then a much more in depth main manual with full descriptions, explanations, illustrations and lots of examples of how to do things.
21 Enable to view string dataset with multiple lines/columns
22 Allow for user defined procedures.
23 Consider adding spreadsheet format conversion with OpenOffice/M$ Excel. If you make a tablet/netbook version, remember Android & Chrome..
24 1. It would be nice if there was a direct export to Excel option. 2. The user interface is somewhat awkward for those of us that use HDF View occaisionally - particularly for data viewing (the color palette interface is difficult to comprehend - is there a way we can make our own?). I still don't quite understand all the nuances and subtlties of HDFview, but then I'm an occaisional viewer user 3. Is there any possibility of creating and exporting files to KML format for display on Google Earth and/or Java3D?

25 I think an option to display image using log scale of the data value is an important missing feature.
26 Searching metadata
27 I had to answer "no opinion" because I have not used the tool. I would like to try it. Where can I find it and instructions on installation / use? (trevor.b.kaplan@nasa.gov)
28 HDFView as a Java product is the only real complaint I have. A Qt product would be my optimal preference. Other than that, HDF is indispensable.
29 It is a very useful tool as is, and easy to use.
30 Support for import/export TIFF image format would be much appriciated. Support for exporting data subsets would also be quite useful.
31 The rather crude interfaces that most users see, hdfview but also IDL's hdf viewer and some of the other tools that support HDF enforce the common feeling that hdf is too geeky. There is a big group of users who have never moved beyond csv data and only grudgingly accept that some data sets come in hdf/nc formats (the ones who say, just show me how to load the date in a spreadsheet so I can do my plots. I think cleaner interfaces could make a big change in the acceptance of hdf, but I'm not sure hdfview is a suitable foundation, and perhaps we will only have good interfaces for particular categories of data that share some common structure (e.g., Brockmann's visat).

32 export an image (png) of the file tree
33 I only use HDFView to view files; never for editing. Yet I often find that viewing a file changes the modification date. This destroys the original modification date (which is often a valuable piece of information); and also raises a question of whether HDFview may have corrupted a file which I didn't request to edit. I know about the "open read-only" option; but this isn't the default and I often forget to select it. In any case, I request that HDFview should not change the modification date on a file unless I have explicitly requested to save changes.

34 Sorry about the rant, but here it goes anyway... My initial attempt to report problems with the HDF libraries through help@hdfgroup.org several months ago was unsatisfactory. I think since I am unknown to the HDF team the developer "reviewing" my code example assumed I was unfamiliar with the HDF API. The response to my "bug" report was 'we designed the code to behave in the way that it does for a reason... you must not know what you are doing'. The recommended methods to use were the methods I used in the demonstration code sent to illustrate the problem. This showed me that I wasted my time producing the sample code since the developer who provided a response to my query obviously did not actually look at what I wrote. The JAVA HDF libraries are a critical part of the subsetting and data mining code I have written, but I hesitate to bring up any more anomalies in the JAVA libraries because my first contact with the HDF team does not seem to have been taken seriously. I cannot afford to waist my time producing examples of unexpected behavior in the HDF libraries just to get generic feedback from someone who obviously did not take the time to examine what I put together for them.

35 maybe I am a few years behind in HDFView's capability -- I use it to look at data; I find in my two year old version getting subsets is not so easy
36 Provide a way to view 1-D datasets within a group as columns in a table (at least the ones that have the same dimension)
37 LinePlot badly needs two capabilities: 1) dynamic zoom by mouse on both X and Y directions; 2) optional (switchable) use of dimension scales.
38 Sluggishness of Java/SWING interface was a problem when using remote X displays. Don't know if it is still a problem? What about a CLI (shell like) interface to largely the same functionality. I mean, hdfview is kinda-sorta like a windows explorer to browse a windows computer filesystem except for an HDF5 file. But, I often use Linux systems and sh for same and having CLI (and scripting) option would be powerful and useful.

39 Supporting dimension scales would be huge for us, especially the ability to open data sets with dimension scales as images and then display them either by pixel (current opproach), or by physical mapping according to the dimension scale (e.g. the image would be scaled linearly or logarithmically by the dimension scale)... I understand that this could be non-trivial to implement and potentially compute intensive, because this would require some sort of interpolation from the computational grid/pixels onto the physically scaled image (according to the dimension scales). While this feature might be considered more of a vis package feature to some, it would be huge productivity boon for us to be able to more quickly explore our very large simulation data--even if it's only subsetted and subsampled 2D planes--before moving our workflow into a more serious vis program such as Paraview, VisIt, or Tecplot. As a first approach, just providing axes with the image would be a decent first cut. Many thanks for working on such great tools: The HDF5 tools and data storage approach has revolutionized the way we deal with very large direct numerical simulations of compressible and hypersonic turbulence. It enables us to perform IO more efficiently and reduce confusion and errors about the context and content of our scientific data sets while improving portability between different machines, and demolishing barriers to collaboration and data sharing.

40 The support team is very responsive and helpful in solving issues in a very timely manner.

41 I have a very strong opinion that the current Java Implementation be replaced by a C++ native implementation using native features of each platform such as open and save dialogs, standard window environment instead of "All in one window". For a proof of concept based on the Qt frameworks (qt.nokia.com) please see http://mxa.web.cmu.edu/Binaries/MXADataModelSDK-2010.08.23-OSX.tar.gz. There is an application called QHDFViewer which is what I use for read only access to HDF5 files. Thanks Mike Jackson - BlueQuartz Software

42 HDFView should be able to handle custom filters, even if that meant specifying some shared libraries....

43 Build the application as a RCP on the NetBeans Platform.

44 I'm not sure how to answer some of the questions. For example, I don't use Shapefiles so HDFView support for them is not useful to me, or is it that I have no opinion. I'm not sure. Of all the things mentioned here, being able to search a multidimensional dataset (or a sub-selection of such a dataset) for a value (or elements who's value is bounded) would be most useful. In fact, I could have used this feature yesterday....

45 I often have trouble opening larger datasets, HDFView just sort of hangs with the window half open. Although this may be compromised by the fact that my company is still using Windows XP.