
Subject: Re: HDF Data sets containg strings?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 02 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Martin Schultz (mgs@io.harvard.edu) writes:

> prompts me to adevrtise my str2byte function that may help you getting byte
> arrays with fixed length from strings with variable length. Please find it
> attached below.

I can see some applications for Martin's Str2Byte function,
but I wanted to remind you of something I learned from Ray
Sternier a long time ago: if you have a string array
with strings of variable lengths, you can easily turn that
into a 2D byte array, in which each string is as long as
the longest string in the array by using the BYTE function.

```
a = StrArr(4)
a[0] = 'hello'
a[1] = 'my name is coyote'
a[2] = 'what is yours?'
a[3] = 'bye'
done = Byte(a)
Help, done
DONE      BYTE      = Array[17, 4]
```

Not only that, but they come back out properly!

```
Print, String(done[*],0)
hello

Print, StrLen(String(done[*],0))
5
```

Cheers,

David

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