
Subject: undefining structures ?

Posted by [lucio](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 1993 18:13:22 GMT

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I am trying to read in files of a priori undefined organization within IDL.

The files are "tabular" binary files (an a priori unknown number of columns of an a priori unknown type with an a priori unknown number of rows).
"a priori unknown" means documented in a file header.

What I wish to have is a procedure `myread,'myfile.name',s`

which returns a structure `s`

This structure will have a number of members `s.keyname` corresponding to keywords, and a member `s.data`.

The member `s.data` is created as: `data:replicate(template,nrows)`

where `template` is constructed building up a string containing a statement like the following and doing an `"test=execute(statement)"`

```
template= {record,TIME:0L, THETA:0L, PHI:0L, ENERGY:0 , undef:0B}  
          ^^^^^
```

where the names and types of the tags are constructed by my procedure according to information in the file itself. So later I can access the individual columns as `s.data.time`, etc.

I MUST use a named structure, otherwise I'm getting an error "cannot have an anonymous structure as a member of another structure").

This is fine the first time, or if I read more files with the same "record structure", but if I try to read a file with a different structure, I get an error % Wrong number of tags defined for structure: RECORD.

Is there any way I can REMOVE this structure from being defined (note that it does not correspond to any true variable in use), and re-use it again ?

PS

I'm using IDL 2.2.1 (and I'm not likely to update it for the time being)

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