
Subject: binary data files with ascii header

Posted by [mtadams](#) on Tue, 08 Mar 1994 18:22:14 GMT

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Hello, all.

I'm trying to create binary data files that have an ascii header followed by a string(12b) (a control-L, so that I can use 'more' to view just the headers), a string(10b) (a return character), and then the binary data. For example,

```
pro test_write
arr=bytarr(256,256,36) ; thirty-six 256x256 images
openw,unit,'test.dat',/get_lun
printf,unit,'header'
printf,unit,'information'
printf,unit,'here...'
printf,unit,string(12b)
writeu,unit,arr
close,unit
free_lun,unit
return
end
```

Creating them seems to present no problem; it's in reading them that I get hosed:

```
function test_read
openr,unit,'test.dat',/get_lun
str=""
readf,unit,str ; read string 'header'
readf,unit,str ; read string 'information'
readf,unit,str ; read string 'here...'

; now skip over the ^L and return characters...
char=0b
if not (eof(unit)) then repeat readu,unit,char until ((char eq 10b) or (eof(unit)))

; file pointer should now be pointing to first byte of binary data...
if (eof(unit)) then begin
    print,'premature eof.'
    close,unit
    free_lun,unit
    return,-1
endif else begin
    arr=bytarr(256,256,36)
    readu,unit,arr
    close,unit
    free_lun,unit
    return,arr
end
```

```
endelse  
end
```

There is often no eof() error; all data seems to be read ok, until I step through my 36 images. Each image is column shifted by some amount (the same for each image).

Any help? Is my error in combining printf & writeu or readf & readu?

thanks,

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