
Subject: Re: Reading from process pipes in IDL?
Posted by [gfirem1](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Benno Puetz (puetz@mpipsykl.mpg.de) wrote:
: I have been trying to read image data from compressed (*.gz) files.
: I would prefer a way similar to PERL's
: open(FILE, "gzip -cd \$file |");

Benno -

If you know the array size in advance, you can use the -c flag to gunzip
to stdout and capture the output in a unit pipe:

```
IDL> imagedata=intarr(1325,800)
IDL> spawn, 'gunzip -c testdata.dat.Z', unit=dataunit
IDL> readu,dataunit,imagedata
IDL> free_lun,dataunit
IDL> help,imagedata
IMAGEDATA    INT    = Array[1325, 800]
```

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