
Subject: Re: Need ideas for a data structure

Posted by [mark_cadwell](#) on Sat, 05 Nov 1994 01:22:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I don't know about IDL, but in PV-Wave I created a flexible record type that works similarly to what you describe.

There is a set of non-changing header elements with things like titles, axes annotation, data start and stop times, etc. There is also an element that contains the size of the data arrays that follow. The file is opened and read into PV-Wave with a READU function call. You have to create a data structure in which to put the stuff you read. You can define one data structure that has everything up to and including the element that tells you array sizes.

Once you have that information, use it to create a second data structure that has all the header stuff AND arrays of the proper size. Rewind the data file with the function "POINT_LUN, UNIT, 0". This sets the I/O pointer back to the beginning of your file so you can read it again (this time with your data arrays).

It may not be the most elegant solution, but it has worked very well for me. The only thing you have to look out for is that the data arrays must start on a fullword boundry. If you need to, you can pad your data structures with a few empty bytes to get to the fullword boundry.

--

mark_cadwell@qmail4.trw.sp.com
