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Subject: sec : U Re: Writing to a specific line of a BIP or BIL file?

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2002 02:10:12 GMT

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Jonathan Greenberg wrote:

>  
> (thanks Andrew for your answer to my ASCII file question)  
>  
> I now want to know, using IDL and/or ENVI function, how do I write data to a  
> specific LINE of a BIP or BIL file? Its easy to read it (envi\_get\_slice),  
> but not easy to write that slice. The brute force is to load the entire  
> image into memory, assign that specific line the new values, and then  
> rewrite the entire image back to disk. This is EXTREMELY slow. Even using  
> ENVI's spectral tiling routines (which at least minimize the memory used,  
> and allow me to know what line I'm on), I still have to parse an entire BIP  
> or BIL file and rewrite it, when all I want to do is write to a specific  
> line and leave the rest of them as is. Anyone have any suggestions for how  
> to do this?  
>  
> --j

Hi Jonathon,

Looks like the rest of the World's gone to sleep, so I'll hazard a guess.

Firstly though, I don't use ENVI, and hadn't even heard of BIP/BIL files until now... ;-)

But I gather that they're bitmap image files from ArcView.

What using ASSOC? ASSOC reads records as defined by you directly from the file. In the code below, c:\image.dat was crated with :-

```
loadct,5  
image = dist(400,400)  
openw,lun,'c:\image.dat',/get  
writeu,lun,image  
free_lun,lun
```

Now you can read back in any line or block of lines using ASSOC, and change it too! The ASSOC variable is *\*not\** held in memory, but read from the disk every time it is referenced.

PRO assoc\_test

```
loadct,5
OpenU,lun,'c:\image.dat',/get
line = ASSOC(lun,bytarr(400))
print,line(199)
line(199) = BYTARR(400)
print,'=====
print,line(199)
Free_lun,lun
END
```

And now you can independently read in image.dat and confirm the change.  
Hardest part is defining the structure and any offset peculiar to your  
file.

I hope I'm not woofing at the wrong piece of bark here...

Merry Xmas,

Andrew

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