
Subject: Re: save an IDLanROI to file? (newbie question)
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 26 Aug 2004 04:15:16 GMT
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Jeff writes:

> I need to save an IDLanROI object (returned by XROI) to a file
> programmatically. I know how to compute a mask and save that, but I'd
> like to save the actual ROI data too, just to be safe. Should I be
> thinking about making a .sav file?

Well, creating a save file is certainly something you should *consider*, but whether you should use it or not often depends on other factors. There are problems restoring objects in general. See this for example:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/saved_objects.html

Although you are not likely to run into these problems with IDLanROI objects. Probably the *next* object you try to save. :-)

In any case, I often find it more convenient to just get the information I need from an object (e.g, the data) and save that in a regular binary data file. Then I can easily read the data file and recreate an object when I need it.

The only trick is to be sure to put enough information in the data file so you can read it again. Something like this:

```
myROI -> GetProperty, Data=theData
filename = Dialog_Pickfile(File='myroi.dat', /Write)
IF filename NE "" THEN BEGIN
  Obj_Destroy, myROI
  OpenW, lun, filename, /Get_LUN
  WriteU, lun, Size(data), data
  Free_Lun, lun
ENDIF
```

Then, when you want to read it:

```
filename = Dialog_Pickfile(File='myroi.dat', /Write)
IF filename NE "" THEN BEGIN
  OpenR, lun, filename, /Get_LUN
  sizeInfo = LonArr(5)
  ReadU, lun, sizeInfo
```

```
data = FltArr(sizeInfo[1], sizeInfo[2])
ReadU, lun, data
Free_Lun, lun
myRoi = Obj_New('IDLanROI', data)
ENDIF
```

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
