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Subject: Re: Unknown data type  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sat, 01 Jan 2005 10:25:17 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

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> Julio writes:
>
>> The files I want to read haven't any typical format. Each file has
>> information in the first line (like number of rows and columns), but
>> anything about data type
>>
>> So, I followed the tips of David. I carried out a "trial read" using
>>
>> Data_type=integer ; I assume all the files are integer
>> ON_IOERROR, bad
>> OPENR, lun, arq, /GET_lun
>> test = make_array(nc, nl, /integer)
>> READU, lun, test ; reading the file into an integer array
>> GOTO, Ok
>> bad: data_type=byte ; if the file couldn't be read into an integer
>> array
>> Ok: FREE_LUN, lun
>>
>> As I told you first, I have only two possible data types: byte and
>> integer. So, using it, I could solve the problem.
>
> Oh, golly, if you know how *much* data is suppose to
> be in the file even I could tell you whether your file
> contains bytes or integers, all the way from Colorado!
>
> And I wouldn't have to read the file to know. Just
> compare the product of rows and columns to the size
> of the file (obtained with FSTAT). If there is little
> or no difference, you have bytes. If there is a big
> difference, you have integers. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
```

Happy new year

I thought I have told Julio this too some days ago. I did the mistake to explain it for float and long determinations.

By the way do you have on your great site an explanation a table or something else which shows the range, precision of each datatype and the the byte size in memory. It hink this would help here too.

cheers  
Reimar

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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