
Subject: Re: Unknown data type
Posted by [ed](#) on Wed, 29 Dec 2004 03:29:37 GMT
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Julio, David and others,

The first line of most image formats (at least the few that I've poked into) contains a code that tells you the format of the image. For example, a gif file may start off with GIF89, and a jpg file will have JFIF in the bytes 5-8. If you can figure out these codes in advance for each type of image you are likely to read, you can write a program to read the first dozen or so bytes and search for the code, then use that information to run the appropriate IDL routine (read_gif, read_jpeg, or whatever).

You might even be able to learn how it's done for the 3 web-based formats (gif, jpg & png) by looking at the freely-available source code for Firefox or Mozilla, since these browsers (and any other competent one) identify the file type by reading the first several bytes.

Ed Schmahl
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David Fanning wrote:

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> Julio writes:
>
>> I can read byte or integer images using byte or integer arrays,
like:
>>
>> byte_image=bytarr(samples, rows) or
>> integer_image=intarr(samples, rows)
>>
>> In both cases I must know the data type. But, when I don't know
the
>> data type, how can I do to read the images? Is there some way to
>> verify the file format before reading into an array?
>
> How can you find the New Year's party when you don't
> know the address? It's a problem. :-(
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. You could do a small "trial read" and see
> if the data "made sense" the way you read it.
```

> What "makes sense" means is kind of up to you.
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
