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.

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David Fanning wrote:
> 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
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> 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/