
Subject: Re: Python reader for IDL save files.
Posted by [Chris Lee](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 07:30:19 GMT
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In article <1117675749.189108.60990@z14g2000cwz.googlegroups.com>,
"Unknown" <lefsky@gmail.com> wrote:

> I have two questions:
> 1. Has anyone worked on the problem of reading IDL save files from
> within python? This seems like a reasonable project for the usual IDL
> variable types.
> 2. The only problem I have thought of is how to represent arrays of IDL
> structures in Python. The one attempt I made at this was succesful, but
> the resulting data structures (lists of lists, I think) were very slow
> to work with. Has anyone worked on this problem? M
>

I may be wrong, but I thought IDL didn't use arrays of structures, it
used a single structure of arrays, which is why structure have to conform
to be put into the same array

```
IDL> help, [{b:2,c:3}, {a:2,c:3}]  
<Expression>  STRUCT  = -> <Anonymous> Array[2]  
IDL> help, [{b:2,c:3}, {a:2,c:3d}]  
% Conflicting data structures:  
IDL> help, [{b:2,c:3}, {a:2,c:3,d:3}]  
% Conflicting data structures:
```

If you want to store these in a python 'structure', then I'd guess a
dictionary is what you want, e.g. s={'a':[1,2,3], 'b':['bob','joe','fred']}, but you
would probably need to use a class and redefine the `__getattr__` method
or similar if you want the access method to be s[0].b

Chris.
