Subject: Re: Reading binary files made by Python Posted by Rick Towler on Mon, 10 Jul 2006 15:55:49 GMT

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Sheldon wrote:

- > Maarten wrote:
- >> Sheldon wrote:

>>

- >>> I have created som binary files using python and tried to read them
- >>> with IDL. I used the binary template as well but IDL completely
- >>> misinterprets the data and returns wrong values and values that were
- >>> never written in the file.

>>

- >> I would recommend to write out the data in a portable file format, like
- >> HDF (pytables is an easy way to do that). You can then use the idl HDF
- >> routines to ingest the data, avoiding the larger part of the headaches.

>>

>> Maarten

>>

>> pytables: http://www.pytables.org/

>

- > This is a very good idea. I think that I will do just that. The data
- > was written and read on the same machine. Silly me, I thought that
- > binary is just a binary but I guess not. Will try the HDF format.

Binary is just binary:) Try to keep it simple and just use OPENR/READU and your knowledge of the file. Do it interactively a few bytes at a time. You'll at least know exactly when things go wrong...

FWIW, I would consider XDR if you can do that from the Python side. It is *much* easier to use than HDF, CDF, etc. and sounds like it is exactly what you are looking for. The only potential issue is that I don't think MATLAB reads it so if that is a requirement I would go back to your original approach.

-Rick