
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
