## Subject: Re: Reading binary files made by Python
Posted by Liberum on Mon, 10 Jul 2006 13:41:23 GMT

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. Now Matlab is able to read these files
>> without problem. My question is why is IDL failing to do this? I know
>> that the binaries are Float32 and the dimensions are correct. I am
>> doing something wrong?
>
> Without actually seeing the code you used to write the files, it seems
> a bit hard to answer this question. One obvious issue is the endianess
> of the data, I don't know what python, IDL or matlab assume about that
> (I guess you use the same machine to write and read the data).
>
> 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.

Thanks,
/Sheldon