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Subject: Re: Converting an ENVI image into a file that can be read by IDL  
Posted by [Carsten Pathe](#) on Tue, 30 Jan 2007 11:26:58 GMT

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procomp9 wrote:

> Hi group,  
>  
> Has anyone ever heard of conerting an ENVI image file into a file that  
> can be read by IDL? The file extention that I have is \*.dat and  
> \*.dat.hdr. Can ENVI do this? If not, is there a third-party program  
> that will do this? If none of these options are available, I will  
> write a program that parses the \*.dat and \*.dat.hdr contents and  
> returns a file that can be read by IDL. To the experts of ENVI and IDL  
> out there: Do you think parsing the data will be possible? What  
> problems can you forsee? I am aware that the semantics of ENVI and IDL  
> are slightly different but the fact that ENVI uses the IDL platform  
> leads me to believe that this can be done. Thanks in advance...  
>  
>  
> Erik  
>

Hi Erik,

here is a little program we are using for reading standard ENVI image files (somename.img + somename.hdr). The program first analyses the image header (somename.hdr) to create a 2d array. Then the image data is read in the 2d array (img), which you then can use within IDL.

```
pro read_envi_image, infile, img, xs, ys, type, offset, mapinfo  
  
;  
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;  
;+  
; NAME:  
; read_envi_file  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
; IDL program, which reads standard ENVI image files (*.img).  
;  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
; Input_Output  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
```

```

; read_envi_file, infile, img, xs, ys, type,offset
;
; INPUTS:
; infile - input file name
;
; OPTIONAL INPUTS:
; None
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
; None
;
; OUTPUTS:
; img - ENVI image file, 2D array
; xs - number of samples
; ys - number of lines
; type - image data type
; offset - headeroffset
; mapinfo - information on spatial resolution (spacing) and coordinates
; of upper left corner (ulx, uly)
;
;
; OPTIONAL OUTPUTS:
; None
;
; COMMON BLOCKS:
; none
;
; SIDE EFFECTS:
;
; RESTRICTIONS:
; None
;
; PROCEDURE:
;
; EXAMPLE:
;
; REMARKS
; None
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
; Written by: Carsten Pathe, cp@ipf.tuwien.ac.at
; Date: 25.08.2003
;
;-

```

image = infile

header = strsplit(infile, '.', /extract)

```

header = header(n_elements(header)-2)+'.hdr'

openr, unit, header, /get_lun

header_line = "

while not eof(unit) do begin

    readf, unit, header_line
    tmp = strsplit(header_line(0), '=', /extract)
    header_keyword = strsplit(tmp(0), ' ', /extract)

    print, header_keyword

    if header_keyword(0) eq 'samples' then xs = long(tmp(1))
    if header_keyword(0) eq 'lines' then ys = long(tmp(1))
    if header_keyword(0) eq 'header' then offset = long(tmp(1))
    if header_keyword(0) eq 'data' then type = long(tmp(1))

    if header_keyword(0) eq 'map' then begin

        mapinfo_tmp=strsplit(tmp(1),'{',/extract)
        mapinfo_tmp=strsplit(mapinfo_tmp(1),'',/extract)

        mapinfo={ulx:0.,uly:0.,spacing:0.}
        mapinfo.ulx=mapinfo_tmp(3)
        mapinfo.uly=mapinfo_tmp(4)
        mapinfo.spacing=mapinfo_tmp(5)

    endif

endwhile

close,unit & free_lun, unit
print, xs, ys

if type eq 1 then img=bytarr(xs, ys)
if type eq 2 then img=intarr(xs, ys)
if type eq 4 then img=fltarr(xs, ys)
if type eq 12 then img=uintarr(xs, ys)

openr, unit,image, /get_lun
point_lun, unit, offset
readu, unit, img
close, unit & free_lun, unit

end

```