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Subject: Re: IDL structure to HDF-5

Posted by [Loren Anderson](#) on Thu, 08 Nov 2007 14:36:22 GMT

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- > Here is my situation. I process an image, which results
- > in 24-separate spectra. Each spectra needs to be fit with
- > three separate Gaussians. (I'm waving my hands a bit here,
- > because I haven't figured out how to do this part yet.) I need
- > to save the original image, the processed image, the spectra,
- > and the fitting parameters and other equations.
- >
- > Would you recommend FITS or HDF for such a project?

Until someone more qualified than me answers this, here is a link to the FITS standards: <http://fits.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

You certainly could put all this data in to a FITS binary table using the routines in Wayne's library: <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. The process is relatively straightforward. If you are working with astronomers (I'm guessing here), we do like our FITS files, and have a number of astronomy-specific tools for viewing them already.

Back to the OP's question, can't you just use writefits? I work with FITS cubes almost exclusively, and that's what I use for such mapped spectra. writefits adjusts the header appropriately for 3D data.

-Loren

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