Subject: swap_endian breaks on double
Posted by Philippe Peeters on Tue, 23 Apr 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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I need to read the content of a binary file generated on a Sun (I think). The content is quite complex and is a mixture of different structures containing int, float, long, double and string.
I used the swap_endian function to convert from the original data to my representation (linux on x86). Everything is fine unless the structure I want to convert contains double data. The error message is

```
% Expression must be a scalar in this context: <DOUBLE    Array(1)>.
% Execution halted at:  SWAP_ENDIAN       55
  /usr/local/rsi/idl_4/lib/swap_endian.pro
%                       READ_LVL1         58
/home/philp/idl/read_lvl1.pro
%                       $MAIN$
```

Just try this:

```
IDL> a={x:0.0,y:0,z:0.d0}
IDL> help,/str,a
** Structure <30b908>, 3 tags, length=16, refs=1:
   X               FLOAT           0.00000
   Y               INT             0
   Z               DOUBLE          0.0000000

IDL> b=swap_endian(a)
% Expression must be a scalar in this context: <DOUBLE    Array(1)>.
% Execution halted at:  SWAP_ENDIAN       55
  /usr/local/rsi/idl_4/lib/swap_endian.pro
%                       $MAIN$
```

BUT:

```
IDL> a=dblarr(10)
IDL> help,a
A               DOUBLE    = Array(10)
IDL> b=swap_endian(a)
IDL>
```

swap_endian fails on structures containing scalar double. Why?

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