
Subject: `binary_template()` errors and do I have to use this?
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Tue, 02 Sep 2008 19:52:25 GMT
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All,

I just got a bunch of satellite data that I would like to read in, unfortunately instead of being cdf or something kind it is some random format described as:
The .FPM files contain the CRRES magnetometer data already converted to magnetic field components. The files consist of 16-byte frames containing UT, Bx,By,Bz in INTEL floating-point format.

My system:

```
IDL> print, !version  
{ i386 darwin unix Mac OS X 6.4.1 Sep 25 2007    32    64}
```

I tried to use `binary_template()` (for the first time) and got a pile of errors trying to setup the template. Have others seen this?

```
IDL> tmp=binary_template(file)  
% Compiled module: XMANAGER.  
% Compiled module: CW_FIELD.  
% Compiled module: CW_BGROUP.  
% XMANAGER: Caught unexpected error from client application. Message follows...  
% Attempt to call undefined procedure/function: 'BT_ENTRY_IS_VALID'.  
% Execution halted at: BT_MODIFY_FIELD_EVENT 812 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/binary_template.pro  
% XMANAGER_EVLOOP_REAL_MODAL 506 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/xmanager.pro  
% XMANAGER 704 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/xmanager.pro  
% BT_MODIFY_FIELD 1222 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/binary_template.pro  
% BINARY_TEMPLATE_EVENT 1272 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/binary_template.pro  
% XMANAGER_EVLOOP_REAL_MODAL 506 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/xmanager.pro  
% XMANAGER 704 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/xmanager.pro  
% BINARY_TEMPLATE 1714 /Applications/itt/idl64/lib/binary_template.pro  
% $MAIN$
```

So giving up on this I tried the following and would like to do this

or something close:

- read a line into a string -> convert to byte -> grab 4 bytes ->
convert to float

I can do the first 2 steps easy, step one returns string from the
file, step 2 makes that a byte array, step 3 is just array[0:3], but I
dont know how to combine these to a float for step 4.

Does anyone have advice on this or insight into a different solution?

Thanks,

Brian

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