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Subject: saving pointers in structures to FITS files?

Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 23:30:55 GMT

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Hi all,

I have some code that uses to a structure to store a bunch of information. In the structure, I need to hold an array whose size will be defined (and modified) at run-time. I figured the easiest way was just to hold a pointer in the structure, and populate the heap variable at runtime.

However...I'd like for the structure to be persistent between idl sessions, and I'd like the on-disk file to be fairly portable between collaborators/idl versions. I've tried all manifestations of FITS routines for dumping this, but mwrfits seems to just convert the data to a regular array, and I lose the ability to modify the length of the array when i read it back in.

Does anyone have suggestions for drop-in replacements for the FITS binary tables? I've had problems with save files across idl versions before. Are there better alternatives? Or is there a magic keyword to mwrfits/mrdfits that I should be specifying? Or do I just have to suck it up and use a save file?

cheers  
chris

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