Subject: Re: IDL Error GCPC data
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 24 Dec 2009 17:38:55 GMT
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sampton writes:

> What I use is:
> - Type "idl" at the UNIX command prompt to start IDL.
> - Type: .run read_v2_1_file.pro to compile the procedures.
> - Type: read_V2_1, "Bin_DATA_FILE_NAME", "STRUC"
> and I changed the file names inside the pro file accordingly. At the
> end no output file is generated, I'm expecting to read a binary file
> but no file is generated.
> Did I miss something ?

Quite a lot, actually. :-)

You won't have to do step 2, with the .RUN if you
move the read_V2_1 module to the bottom of the file and
name the file "read_v2_1.pro".

   http://www.dfanning.com/tips/namefiles.html

If you do include this step, .COMPILE would be a better choice,
unless you always want to always see that printed help
message, which I think contains inaccurate information.

Then, on this command:

```
   IDL> read_V2_1, "Bin_DATA_FILE_NAME", "STRUC"
```

Is that *really* the name of the file you want to open? That
is an *extremely* weird name. Normally, on LINUX systems filenames
will have all lowercase letters, unless there is some extraordinary
reason for not doing so.

In any case, you want "struct" to be a variable, not a string,
so you don't want to put quotes around it. If that filename
is a valid one, you probably want to call your program like this:

```
  IDL> read_V2_1, "Bin_DATA_FILE_NAME", struct
```

This will pass the (undefined?) variable struct into the program
in a pass-by-reference (rather than pass-by-value) way. When the
program works, you *should* have struct defined as something that
got read out of the file. Is that was you intend?

Cheers,

David
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")