
Subject: Re: reading/writing large files

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 01 Feb 2013 18:44:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Friday, February 1, 2013 11:49:05 AM UTC-5, rr...@stsci.edu wrote:

> On Friday, February 1, 2013 11:36:22 AM UTC-5, Craig Markwardt wrote:

> Thanks for the ideas. Yeah, I'm familiar with the HDF files and think I'm gonna look at the CDF files. Craig, Yeah I am an astronomer and have been using fits files. It would be awesome if I could use a binary table, but it seems that I can only have 999 columns (for fx*pro). I was looking at the ft*pro library from Landsman, but it's not clear to me that this will work for me either. DO you have any other advice on the fits I/O libraries?

Do you really have 5000 distinct name-worthy values? I bet you have vectors of data. FITS binary tables can easily accomodate vectors (or even arrays) in a single table cell. We routinely put whole images into a FITS binary table cell.

For real programming I usually use the fits_bintable library (FXB*.PRO), which allows one to be very explicit about the table structure. For quick-n-dirty you can use MRDFITS and MWRFITs. (for MWRFITs you need to be very careful about making sure your data has the same data structure and data type, so that you can merge it later without hassle.)

Craig
