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Subject: Re: defining structure after ascii template  
Posted by [spluque](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2013 17:02:18 GMT  
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On Monday, September 16, 2013 11:02:11 AM UTC-5, David Fanning wrote:

> spluque@gmail.com writes:

>

>

>

>> As far as I can see, it is not possible to define a structure using a template as the one built via `ascii_template()`. Essentially, extract a sub-structure from the template returned by `ascii_template`, containing the column names as tags and the field type. What is the proper way to do this?

>

>

>

> I honestly have no idea what this question means. Why don't you explain

>

> to us what you are trying to do.

Sorry for the terse initial post. Here is what I am trying to do:

1. I've prepared a template with `ascii_template()` for reading in an ASCII file via `read_ascii()`.
2. Before reading the data with `read_ascii()`, I need to prepare an *\*array\** of structures, where each element is a record (row) in a number of files to be read with the template in (1).
3. `read_ascii()` creates a structure that looks like this:

```
help, data, /structures
```

```
** Structure <57e3008>, 23 tags, length=7800864, data length=7800864, refs=1:
```

```
  FIELD01      LONG   Array[84792]
```

```
  FIELD02      FLOAT  Array[84792]
```

```
  FIELD03      LONG   Array[84792]
```

```
...[many more fields]
```

So the array of structures to be created would like this (abbreviating the number of fields for brevity here):

```
p={'foo', FIELD01:0L, FIELD02:0.0, FIELD03:0L}
```

```
replicate(p, n_recs)
```

where `n_recs` is the total number of records expected.

So the question is how can `p` be created from the information already there in the template created in (1)?

Thanks,

