Subject: Re: BINARY FILES
Posted by mole6e23 on Fri, 13 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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mohamed_nur@my-deja.com wrote:

> I've been dealing with binary files and every case i had to know before
> hand the dimensions of the array to setup an IDL variable of the said
> dimesions and read the unformatted data into.
>
> But is it possible or is there a method (in IDL 5.2/5.3) to read it in
> with no knowledge of the dimensions of the array.

I always use the fstat routine, which gets a bunch of information about
the file, but the only one I ever use is the size field:

```
;-----
openr,lun,'file.dat',/get_lun
stat = fstat( lun )

array = fltarr( stat.size )

readu,lun,array

free_lun, lun
;----
```

Alternatively, if you're on UNIX, you can use the /nostdio keyword which
lets you just read willy nilly until the end of the file, and then get the
transfer count from the readu procedure. It's not a good way of doing
things, in my opinion, but it works:

```
;; Allocate a much bigger array than you need
array = fltarr( 1e5 )
openr,lun,'file.dat',/get_lun,/nostdio
readu,lun,array,transfer_count=count
array = temporary(array)[0:count-1]
free_lun, lun
```

Hope this helps,
Todd

Subject: Re: BINARY FILES
Posted by davidf on Fri, 13 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

mohamed nur (mohamed_nur@my-deja.com) writes:

> I've been dealing with binary files and every case i had to know before
> hand the dimensions of the array to setup an IDL variable of the said
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> But is it possible or is there a method (in IDL 5.2/5.3) to read it in
> with no knowledge of the dimensions of the array.

A free Second Edition IDL Programming Techniques book
to the first person who can find the simple word I
embedded in this binary sequence:

0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 1
0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say this is a *much* easier problem
than the one you propose. :-)

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