Subject: Re: writeu, printf, readu/f 2 file
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Tue, 13 Mar 2001 20:13:00 GMT
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Without delving into too much detail about your specific program, I can say that you should pay a lot more attention to your output formatting. Don't assume, simply because you print it out one way, it can be read the same way. For example:

```
IDL> openw, 50, 'test.dat'
IDL> printf, 50, 1, '2 3', 4
IDL> close, 50
IDL> openr, 50, 'test.dat'
IDL> a = 0 & b = '' & c = 0
IDL> readf, 50, a, b, c
% READF: End of file encountered. Unit: 50
        File: test.dat
% Execution halted at:  $MAIN$
```

Hmmm, why did this fail? Well, the string B is very greedy and it consumes everything to the end of the line, including the "4".

Mixing formatted and unformatted data in a file can be tricky. The problem is that when you read formatted data the file pointer can advance unpredictably. Better to read and write the data intermediately to a string buffer.

Craig

"Sean Heukels" <sean77=cuthere=@dds.nl> writes:

> Can writeu, and printf be combined ?? in one write action.
> Or is it the one or the other ?
> I've been trying everything. The whole day and it still doesn't work.
>
> What I want to do is write some txt and variables, that define
> the following data block and ofcourse the time and location, etc
> In the header. But somehow, the firt line reads fine, but after that
> everything is garbled.
> I think it has something to do with the different write/read statements
>
> See sample code that is not working
... deleted ...

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu

Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
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Subject: Re: writeu, printf, readu/f 2 file
Posted by Martin Schultz on Mon, 19 Mar 2001 15:45:02 GMT
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Craig Markwardt wrote:
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> % READF: End of file encountered. Unit: 50
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> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
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> Mixing formatted and unformatted data in a file can be tricky. The
> problem is that when you read formatted data the file pointer can
> advance unpredictably. Better to read and write the data
> intermediately to a string buffer.
>
> Craig
>

... or use a byte array to represent strings in a binary file. I have
a little utility program available that will convert strings (or
string arrays) to byte arrays. To go back, you can simply use
String(thearray). The program is here:

http://www.mpimet.mpg.de/~schultz.martin/idl/html/src/martin _schultz/str2byte.pro

Cheers,
Martin

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