
Subject: Re: landscan data

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 15 Jan 2006 16:06:51 GMT

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matthias.demuzere@geo.kuleuven.be writes:

> Is there anyone that has experience in reading the Landscan data in
> IDL? The LandScan™ Dataset comprises a worldwide population database
> compiled on a 30" X 30" latitude/longitude grid. The LandScan Dataset
> files are available in an ESRI raster binary format.
>
> Now I have all the data, but I really don't succeed in reading in this
> dataset. The data includes also a header file with the following
> information:
>
> ncols 43200
> nrows 20880
> xllcorner -180
> yllcorner -90
> cellsize 0.0083333333333333
> NODATA_value -9999
> byteorder LSBFIRST

I presume you tried something like this. What happened?

```
OpenR, lun, 'yourfile.dat', /Get_Lun, /Swap_If_Big_Endian
image = IntArr(43200L, 2088L)
ReadU, lun, image
Free_Lun, lun
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: landscan data

Posted by [matthias.demuzere](#) on Mon, 16 Jan 2006 13:40:40 GMT

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Well, if i try this, I always get following error message:

Unable to allocate memory: to make array.

Is this because the array is too large to read in at once? And if so, what would be a proper way then to read it in??

Cheers,
Matthias

Subject: Re: landscan data

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 16 Jan 2006 16:01:29 GMT

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matthias.demuzere@geo.kuleuven.be writes:

- > Well, if i try this, I always get following error message:
- >
- > Unable to allocate memory: to make array.
- >
- > Is this because the array is too large to read in at once?

Humm. Well, it's a big array, that's for sure. But my middling machine can handle it. Do you have a first born son? Would you be willing to trade him to your system administrator for more process space? If you are going to work with big data, you pretty much have to have decent tools, or things get hopeless quickly.

- > And if so,
- > what would be a proper way then to read it in??

I guess you could try reading the data in smaller chunks, but what is the point? Eventually, you are going to want to do something with the data and it doesn't appear you have the memory to do it.

I think I would be thinking about getting more memory (which is cheap) rather than thinking about complicated workarounds.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: landscan data

Posted by [matthias.demuzere](#) on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 11:01:11 GMT

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Thanks for the reply David.

I tried again to read in the whole dataset with 43200x20880 fields on another PC, but that didn't work either. So I probably have to look to see if I can expand my memory capacity....

Cheers,
Matthias
