
Subject: Is there an easy way to write and read (large) structure?

Posted by [mystea](#) on Fri, 14 Nov 2008 05:30:18 GMT

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Hi all,

I am trying to write my data (which is a structure array) into a ascii file and to retrieve it later on.

A most naive way to write to a file is as follows:

```
.***  
,  
openw,lun,'mydata.dat',/get_lun  
printf,lun,data  
free_lun,lun  
.***  
,
```

To read it, simply create a structure array of the same type:

```
.*****  
,  
record={properties,DOB:0.0,M:0.0,sec:0.0,xpos:0.0,ypos:0.0,z pos:0.0,$  
P:0.0,A:0.0,Q:0.0,Tc:0.0,Tm:0.0,clA:0.0,ms:0.0,status:'unbor n'}
```

```
data=replicate(record,10000)
```

```
openr,lun,'mydata.dat',/get_lun  
readf,lun,data  
free_lun,lun  
.*****  
,
```

This method actually works very well for short structures where each array element can be recorded in one line.

However, the data structure I have in hand is very long, and the file 'mydata.dat' looks like:

```
{ 110.0015 1.09355 7.99650 2489.13  
1962.11 1361.55  
0.00000 12.00000 53.00000 0.00000  
0.00000 0.00000  
0.00000 unborn}{ 0.114715 0.803090 17.3017  
660.172  
3556.35 1409.37 0.00000 0.05000 0.00000  
0.10000  
0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 unborn}.....
```

(10000 structure instances, 23000+ lines)

so when I type in:

readf,lun,data

IDL returns

% READF: Input conversion error. Unit: 100, File: mydata.dat

% Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$

.*****
;

Is there any good way to get around this?
