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Subject: Re: TIFF header

Posted by [Christian Soeller](#) on Tue, 22 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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<hsiacc@biomech2.ME.Berkeley.EDU> writes:

- > Is the header 198 bytes for the above case?
- > Is the header at the beginning of the file?
- > Is the whole header located in consecutive bytes at one place in the file
- > (I understand that tiff headers can be broken up at different parts of the
- > file)?

The tiff format is a bit more complicated than a simple header/image\_data format. The basic unit is a tiff-directory that holds a listing of all the information you can access. The image data is treated as one piece of information just as is other info as image\_width, image\_height, .... To get an idea of the structure of a directory and how to find the image data in a tiff file you should check

<http://rushmore.jpl.nasa.gov/~ndr/tiff/>

and pointers therein.

And beware, image data is not necessarily stored contiguously in tiffs. It can be tiled, organised in strips and even compressed. The thing you are trying to do is, generally speaking, highly non-trivial. Due to the abundance of issues involved in storing/accessing tiffs there exists a C library to help get at your image data (check above URL).

Christian

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