
Subject: Re: Question about structure I/O in IDL
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 14 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Marcus E Engdahl (mengdahl@alpha.hut.fi) writes:

```
> I read my data from ASCII-files using READ_ASCII which uses templates to
> define the format of the ASCII-file. The templates are structures created
> by ASCII_TEMPLATE. Since most of my ASCII-files have the same format, I'd
> like to store these structures into disk. How do I do this?
>
> Is this the right way to store it?
>
> template = ASCII_TEMPLATE(cohfilename)
> OPENW,1,'template,file'
> WRITEU,1,template
> CLOSE,1
>
> Storing seems to work alright but when I try to read the structure using
> READU I run into problems (template doesn't become a structure).
>
> OPENR,1,'template.file'
> READU,1,template
> CLOSE,1
>
> What is the correct way to store and retrieve structures?
```

In this situation, I think the easiest thing to do would be to use the SAVE and RESTORE commands to save the file template. The code might look like this:

```
template = ASCII_TEMPLATE(filename)
Save, template, File='template.sav'
```

When you want it again:

```
Restore, 'template.sav'
data = Read_ASCII('newfilename', Template=template)
```

Cheers,

David

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