
Subject: Re: From Bytes to Doubles, etc.
Posted by [csaute3](#) on Wed, 17 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Justin,

You posted asking how to convert binary data
back to the original numbers. you said there are only a few numbers
that you want to convert and you know where they exist in the array.
This is what I do:

```
; getblock in function which reads the data and returns a byte array  
data = getblock(arg1, arg2)
```

```
; to convert to long where 0 is my offset in the byte array  
number = long(data, 0)
```

```
; to convert to float where 16 is my offset in the byte array  
a = float(data, 16)
```

```
; to convert a structure where 20 is my offset in the byte array  
; to the beginning of the structure  
structure = {gridstruct, usage:long(0), r:float(0.0), z:float(0.0)}  
grid = {gridstruct}  
grid.usage = long(data, 20)  
grid.r = float(data, 24)  
grid.z = float(data, 28)
```

```
; to convert a string where 32 is my offset in the byte array  
; and my string is length 20 characters. this must be known.  
; i often store the length as a long in my byte array and read  
; it first.  
name = "  
namelength = 20 ; number of characters  
tmp = bytarr(namelength)  
tmp = data(32:32+namelength-1)  
name = string(tmp)
```

I hope this helps. Look up in the IDL help about long, float, double.

Cathy

-----== Posted via Deja News, The Leader in Internet Discussion ==-----
<http://www.dejanews.com/> Now offering spam-free web-based newsreading

Subject: Re: From Bytes to Doubles, etc.
Posted by [Justin\[1\]](#) on Sun, 21 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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csaute3@alumni.umbc.edu wrote in message
<6m91i4\$2n6\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com>...
> Justin,
>
> You posted asking how to convert binary data
> back to the original numbers. you said there are only a few numbers
> that you want to convert and you know where they exist in the array.
> This is what I do:
 <snip>
> ; to convert to long where 0 is my offset in the byte array
> number = long(data, 0)
>

Cathy,

I think this was case of not reading the manual - I didn't know of the
offset argument for the conversion functions in IDL, my apologies! Thanks
for bothering to reply, this has saved me a lot of work and messy coding -

Justin
