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Subject: Re: IDL/PV-Wave - Can they strip headers in binary files?

Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 18 Jun 1993 13:18:08 GMT

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gnaa38@aero.gla.ac.uk (Paul Porcelli) writes:

- > Could someone tell me how IDL or PV-Wave copes with displaying data from a
- > binary file which has a header of various types (ie int,float,string) and
- > which also defines the number of records in the file.
- > Would the header have to be stripped first by another program?
- > I am specifically interested in how easy it is to read from a file of
- > this type and output the data in a graphical format(ie plot etc).
- > Are any of the two products more suited to this task?
- > Any help will be greatly appreciated.
- > Thanks.

IDL and PV-wave both have the same kind of I/O capabilities as a third-generation language such as FORTRAN and C. (In fact, FORTRAN-style FORMAT specifications are supported.) This means that you can write a fairly simple routine to read in and parse the header and data in your table. Routines for some standard file formats, such as FITS, have already been written using standard IDL/PV-wave calls. However, it's a fairly simple matter to write a reader routine yourself if you know what the format of the file is.

Once you've read the data into arrays, you can then plot it in the normal matter.

Both IDL and PV-wave are likely to be equally capable in reading files. In fact, a program written in one will probably work in the other.

Bill Thompson

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