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Subject: Re: IDL/PV-Wave - Can they strip headers in bina

Posted by [oet](#) on Thu, 17 Jun 1993 15:50:55 GMT

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In article AA03092@tigermoth.aero.gla.ac.uk.gla.ac.uk, 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?

IDL has the assoc function with the possibility to define an offset value as third parameter to skip a header. Below a read procedure for a meteo sat file. In addition there are now included CDF, NETCDF and HDF read in routines in IDL which are types of self describing data. We use the function below to read in the satellite images into our IDL-Meteosat-Monitor.

```
--
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```

```
;Read a meteo sat image
;+
; NAME:
;   SATREAD
;
; PURPOSE:
;   Read a meteo sat file
;
; CATEGORY:
;   Input/Output
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;   image=satread(<path>/<file name>)
;
;
; COMMON BLOCKS:
;
; SIDE EFFECTS:
;
; RESTRICTIONS:
;
```

```
; EXAMPLE:
;   image=satread('/proj/sat/satfil/921008.580')
;   TV, image
;
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
; Written by: Philippe Overney, Th. Oettli, SMI, Oct-1992
;
;
;
; -
```

```
FUNCTION SATREAD, s
OPENR, unit, s, /GET_LUN
a=ASSOC(unit, BYTARR(800,800),201)
r=ROTATE(a(0),7)
FREE_LUN, unit
RETURN, r
end
```

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