Subject: Re: Reading string data from binary f77 files?
Posted by walsteyn on Fri, 07 Jan 1994 09:00:11 GMT
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In <thompson.757898339@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov> thompson@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov (William Thompson) writes:

> scott@abyss.ATMOS.ColoState.Edu (Scott Denning) writes:

>> I have binary files of model output that are set up with a bunch of header
>> info, including a list of the names of the fields contained in the file.
>> The files are written in IEEE binary by fortran 77 programs. I can read
>> everything just fine into IDL by opening the file code like
>> ..
>> ARRAY1 = FLTARR(im,jm,lm)
>> OPENR, 1, 'model.output', /F77_UNFORMATTED
>> READU, 1, ARRAY1
>> ..
>> etc.
>> The only trouble seems to be in reading the strings which are supposed to
>> be the names of the fields (titles for the plots I make with IDL). I have
>> been trying variations on
>> title = StrArr(100)
>> readu, 1, title
>> All I get is an array of 100 nulls.
>> Even reading a single character string like this:
>> name = '123'
>> readu, 1, header
>> doesn't work.
>> Any ideas?

> The way to do this is to create a byte array with the correct number of
> characters, read this into IDL, and then convert it to string. Assuming that
> you're trying to read a title string with 100 characters in your example above,
> this should do the trick:
> title = bytarr(100)
> readu, 1, title
> title = string(title)
> Bill Thompson

Another trick is to make sure that the title string is already
filled with an arbitrary character string that is as long as the record
you want to read. (This is mentioned in the manual somewhere.)
Example:
    title = string(' ',format='(A100)')
    readu, 1, title

Fred Walsteijn.