
Subject: Re: Reading binary data whose source code not given

Posted by [rlefevre](#) on Wed, 18 May 1994 16:59:18 GMT

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In article <2rd8ft\$hn2@mojo.eng.umd.edu> madabhus@eng.umd.edu (Rajiv Madabhushi) writes:

> I have a binary file with a 400 by 400 array. All I know about the
> elements of that array is that they are written as 16-bit 2's complement
> data. The file was created on a pc. I am no sure about what language
> the software that creates this file is written in (and cannot
> find out :-().

> None of the above attempts proved successful. (I compared the image plot
> with that from an ascii version of the file. The two plots are completely
> different. The binary data is read in ok - without any keywords - but none
> of the data points are read in correctly.)

> So my question is: is there any way to read such data? I would be willing
> (and I also tried, but unsuccessfully) to read the data element by element.

Yes, I think.

I read data from Unix F77 on my IDL for the PC. I have to use the function
byteorder and keyword /lswap. For example,

```
readu,unit, isize, data, isize & byteorder, data, /lswap
```

where isize is the size byte used by f77 unformatted write and data is the
data.

Hope this helps.

Randy J. Lefevre

Return e-mail to rlefevre@tamu.edu
