Subject: Re: BINARY FILES
Posted by Paul van Delst on Fri, 13 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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mohamed_nur@my-deja.com wrote:
>
> hello all,
> I've been dealing with binary files and every case i had to know before
> hand the dimensions of the array to setup an IDL variable of the said
> dimesions and read the unformatted data into.
>
> But is it possible or is there a method (in IDL 5.2/5.3) to read it in
> with no knowledge of the dimensions of the array.
>
> thanks for the assistance

At last count (at least on my newsreader) we have two replies (Todd Clements' second post doesn't count :o) and five.... well I don't know what to call them. That a SNR of 0.4. Oof.

I have used both Todd Clements' suggestion, then graduated to Liam's tools. I now work (almost) exclusively in netCDF so I avoid:

a) the problem with needing to know the file format/dimensions/etc,
b) the problems one encounters moving data files from big->little-endian machines and
c) having to use IDL for everything (netCDF has an API in multiple languages and the list is growing).

If you have the ability to create the files and aren't worried about portability, I would suggest Liam's binary tools. If portability is a problem, then (for a bit more effort) I'd say go with netCDF.

If you're stuck with someone else's files, then you're in the schtook. It was only recently I discovered that Fortran sequential binary files aren't as portable as I thought - endian-ness notwithstanding (Those damn record delimiters!)

paulv
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