Subject: Re: Implied do loops in IDL
Posted by leic on Wed, 15 Jun 1994 17:15:03 GMT
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It is possible to read FORTRAN binary as normal (ie. without the
/F77_unformatted keyword) provided you know how FORTRAN handles
the unformatted records.
I have to do this with data I use which is output in exactly the
same implied DO loop way as is your data.

On our system (SGI IRIX 5) FORTRAN prepends and appends 4 bytes
to each record. This is a long word byte count of the record
length.

To read this data back in use the following algorithm :

```
;   Open the file as a normal data file:
  OPENR, lun, /GET_LUN, file

;   Define a long word byte count to read at the start and end of
;   each record:
  byte_count = 1L

;   To read a single record, first read the byte count, then create
;   an array of the necessary data type and size:
  READU,lun, byte_count
  data = LONARR(byte_count/4)

;   Finally, read the array and the terminating byte count:
  READU,lun, data,byte_count
```

I am pretty sure that SunOS also uses a 4byte prefix/postfix byte
count. The only real way to be sure is to use od to get a dump
of the first few records of the file and see what is in there.

Hope this helps.