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.