Subject: Re: VMS IDL to PC IDL FITS conversion
Posted by thompson on Mon, 01 Aug 1994 14:41:38 GMT
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lynch@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov (David Lynch) writes:

> I have some data sets that I would like to get into IDL on my PC. These data
> are FITS files on a VAX, which, I understand, formats numbers differently than
> a PC. Is there a utility which will make these files readable for my PC IDL?
> I am somewhat new to IDL, so this may be elementary, but I have no clue where
> to begin.

FITS files are written in a computer-independent format. Therefore, as long as
you transfer the files as binary data, you should have no problems reading the
data on any computer. (As a matter of fact, the format used by FITS files is
different from that used by either the VAX or the PC.)

You can find out more about FITS from the newsgroup sci.astro.fits. An FAQ is
posted there regularly.

FITS readers for IDL can be obtained from the anonymous ftp server
idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov. I have used them successfully on IBM PCs.

Bill Thompson