
Subject: Re: how to handle 3-D data

Posted by [Fergus Gallagher](#) on Wed, 18 Jan 1995 10:20:32 GMT

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surinder@eng.umd.edu (Surinder P. Singh) wrote:

>
> I get data out put from
> FORTRAN 77, a function
> F(i,j,k) .
>
> What is the best way to write this data and read by idl ?
> Can i increse speed of reading and writing by unformatted data ?
>

Yes - unformatted reading & writing is MUCH faster.

If you're on unix, remember to use the /F77_UNFORMATTED keyword (F77 records have extra longwords at both ends.

In F77 you can write

```
open(unit,"data.dat",form="unformatted",....)
write(unit) F
```

and read with

```
openr,unit,/get_lun,/f77_unformatted
a = fltarr(100,100,100) ; for example
readu,unit,a
free_lin,unit
```

See IDL UG, 17-44 ff

Fergus
