
Subject: Fortran unformatted data: Big or little endian
Posted by [Michael Schroeter](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 2003 12:37:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hello Newsgroup,

I have a problem reading Fortran unformatted data in IDL. I have a file containing data of well known size (e.g., an array of 100 x 100 single precision floating point values). Unfortunately, I don't know something about the machine (big or little endian machine) on which the file has been produced. Is there a way to get this information on the fly by IDL in order to open the file automatically in the correctly (using the /SWAP_ENDIAN option or not). The way I used so far was trial and error. But since I have many of those files I'm searching for a solution without recompiling my source code.

Do you have any ideas?

Thanks in advance.

Regards

Michael

Institute of Meteorology and Climatology University Hannover/Germany
Herrenhaeuser Str. 2, 30419 Hannover
<http://www.muk.uni-hannover.de>
