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Subject: Re: Reading USGS DEMs  
Posted by [moersch](#) on Wed, 22 Mar 1995 06:43:49 GMT  
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In article <3klgmi\$noh@newsbf02.news.aol.com> arthurb733@aol.com (ArthurB733) writes:

- > I'm new to IDL and to this group. Please forgive me if this subject has
- > come up before. I was wondering if anyone knows of existing IDL
- > procedures for reading USGS DEMs, or does someone have pointers to offer
- > on the topic?

I wrote the attached short bit of code a while ago to do this. It's not very fancy, but it should do the job for you.

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----cut here----

```
pro demread, filename, demarr
```

```
; Reads in a standard 1201x1201 USGS Digital Elevation Map.
```

```
hdr="
linehdr="
alt1=intarr(146)
alt2=intarr(170)
alt3=intarr(170)
alt4=intarr(170)
alt5=intarr(170)
alt6=intarr(170)
alt7=intarr(170)
alt8=intarr(35)
openr, 1, filename
readf, 1, hdr
for i=0,1200 do begin
  readf, 1, linehdr, alt1, format='(a147,146i6)'
  readf, 1, alt2, format='(170i6)'
  readf, 1, alt3, format='(170i6)'
  readf, 1, alt4, format='(170i6)'
  readf, 1, alt5, format='(170i6)'
  readf, 1, alt6, format='(170i6)'
  readf, 1, alt7, format='(170i6)'
  readf, 1, alt8, format='(35i6)'
  demarr(i,0:145)=alt1
  demarr(i,146:315)=alt2
  demarr(i,316:485)=alt3
```

```
demarr(i,486:655)=alt4
demarr(i,656:825)=alt5
demarr(i,826:995)=alt6
demarr(i,996:1165)=alt7
demarr(i,1166:1200)=alt8
endfor
close,1
end
----cut here----
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```

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