
Subject: Re: reading binary files
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 19 Jun 2007 14:47:29 GMT
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Vince Oliver wrote:

```
> we are maybe on the good way. I wrote this
>
>
> OpenR, lun, data, /Get_Lun, /F77_UNFORMATTED
>
> specnr=2
> nlen=7323
> n=2*nlen
> specoff=(n+1)*specnr*4l ; this is letter L not number 1
> spectra = Assoc(lun, Fltarr(n),specoff)
```

what about something like,

```
spectra = ASSOC(lun,{RecBegin:0L, Data:FLTARR(2,n), RecEnd:0L})
spectrum = spectra[0]
```

?

Do the spectrum.data contain the correct info? Additionally, are the values of spectrum.recbegin and spectrum.recend the same as $2*n*4$?

Remember that *each* output record (for Fortran sequential access, unformatted) has a marker both at the beginning *and* the end specifying the record length (hopefully in bytes, not "words").

ASSOC is most often used for direct access, unformatted; but there's no reason you can't use it here also.

>> I assume here that the data is: DWORD|fltarr(n)|DWORD|fltarr(n)...

Nope, it should be

```
RECLen1|fltarr(2,n)|RECLen1|RECLen2|fltarr(2,n)|RECLen2....
```

One of the reasons for the terminating record length marker (what I called "RecEnd" in the structure above) is so that the Fortran BACKSPACE command works for sequential access files.

cheers,

paulv

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Paul van Delst Ride lots.

