
Subject: opening/reading binary data
Posted by [rawlins](#) on Fri, 04 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi All,

I'm somewhat of a novice with IDL, and am having some trouble reading a data file stored in binary mode. The data file is the etopo5 elevation data. We run a Sun Sparc machine with SunOS 5.4 (UNIX)

The FORTRAN open and read statements that work for this file are:

```
open (13, file = '/usr2/home/rawlins/Global/dem/etopo5.dat',  
$  access = 'direct', recl = nlonnod*2)  
  
read (13, rec=i) (demval(i,j), j = 1, nlonnod)
```

in an i loop.

In IDL I did:

```
IDL>openr,1,'Global/dem/etopo5.dat',f77_unformatted  
IDL>dat=fltarr(540,4320)  
IDL>readu,1,dat
```

which caused no errors. But when I printed out the first value in the array:

```
IDL>print,dat(0,0)
```

I got: -5.90914e+28

Obviously not a reasonable elevation. Is there something I'm missing??????

Thanks for any help!

-Michael Rawlins
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