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Subject: Re: Reading in a binary file in IDL - based on fortran reader?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2014 13:17:18 GMT

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On 07/02/14 09:05, rjp23@le.ac.uk wrote:

> I figured out reading the header in and the above seemed to work but I'm not sure how to progress on to a different record.

>

> The fortran code I have is similar to:

>

> READ(10,rec=1) a, b, c, d

> READ(10,rec=5) data

>

> I've been able to read in all the header info from "rec1" but how do I then proceed on to rec5?

Ah. A Fortran direct access file! IDL doesn't really have an equivalent

- a regular OPENR will give you stream file (I think that's the correct term) just like C (or most anything else) would.

In IDL, to proceed onto record #5 (skipping recs 2-4) you can use the POINT\_LUN procedure. This will position the file pointer wherever you want it.

Of course, you will have to know what the file record length is and compute the position accordingly.

Note that the units of POINT\_LUN are bytes. Some Fortran compilers assume words (4-bytes) as the record length unit, so make sure you take that into account if necessary. (And apologies if you already know this :o)

cheers,

paulv

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