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```

<br><tt>bh = intarr(35)</tt><tt></tt>
<p><tt>for i=1, 1201 do begin ; skip first 1024 chunk, "recordA"</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[146:*,i]), ba ; recordB profile value
begin at byte 146</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[i+1]), bb</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[i+2]), bc</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[i+3]), bd</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[i+4]), be</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[i+5]), bf</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[i+6]), bg</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;reads, string(block[0:210,i+7]), bh&nbsp; ; 6 byte/value</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;col = [ba, bb, bc, bd, be, bf, bg, bh] ; concatenate all
segment in one profile</tt>
<br><tt>&nbsp;im[i,*] = col</tt>
<br><tt>endfor</tt>
<br><tt>imlr = bytscl(im)</tt>
<br><tt>end</tt></html>

```

Subject: Re: reading dem

Posted by [Sylvain Carette](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2000 10:28:02 GMT

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```

<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0 transitional//en">
<html>
<tt>Well it didnt work.. :-(</tt>
<br><tt>I got:</tt>
<br><tt>% Input line is too long for input buffer of 32767 characters.</tt>
<br><tt>% READF: Error encountered reading from file. Unit: 100, File:
D:\gis\DEM250\montrealw.dem</tt><tt></tt>
<p><tt>Now I'm stuck... is there a way to make readf read only no more
than 32767 char?</tt>
<br><tt>I though to split the file in little chunks but if I do that I
cant use anymore readf since it need a lun if I understand correctly. This
bring me back to my first post in which I divide one record b into 8 1024
chunks and use "reads, string(chunk), var".</tt>
<br><tt>On the command line, each line ok. In the loop:</tt>
<br><tt>% READS: End of input data encountered: &lt;STRING&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;
('&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; 366&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; 366&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; 359&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; ...')></tt>
<br><tt>Either too many or not enough.... :-(</tt><tt></tt>
<p><tt>I noticed that you used long instead of int, what is the reason
for this?</tt>
<br><tt>Wait a minute: do I have more chance if I use assoc subdividing
the file in 1024 byte arrays before calling readf? Do assoc effectively
will make readf read only 1024 byte chunk at a time without complain?(I'll
try anyway but comment welcome)</tt>
<br><tt>And about the file pointer, once you place it what happen after?

```

I mean, do you have any control over it or it just drive crazy by itself up to EOF?

I begin to have a fuzzy feel that I begin to understand.. or its because its already 6am and I need to sleep

Sylvain Carette

VRML designer-composer

Craig Markwardt wrote:

Sylvain,

Part of the problem is that very few people have any direct experience with what you are trying. Some, including me, offered some general advice, hoping that would help, but reading byte-level DEM's is not exactly common knowledge. Also realize that a topic so focussed and specific as yours is not likely to pique anybody's interest.

In the future you would do better to describe what you need to do at a higher level, and help us by providing documentation, like I do now.

The documentation is here:

<http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/nmpstds/demstds.html>

The DEM's are digital elevation maps, and are stored in 1024 byte blocks. The first block contains a type "A" record. The next blocks contain a type "B" record which have the actual elevation data. The actual data start at offset 144 of the record (where offset 0 is the beginning); there are 1201x1201 elements stored, 146 in the first 1024-block, and then 170 in the successive 1024-blocks. Elevation values are stored as ASCII format=(I6).

The key thing to realize that all the data is in ASCII, separated by blanks. Therefore, while we could read each 1024-block in turn, it's better to just do a formatted READF. There is no need to work at the byte level, except at the beginning to get to the right file offset. Unfortunately IDL can only read 32k elements at a time, so I read a row at a time as a compromise.

pro readdem250, file, im

m = 1201L & n = 1201L ;; Really get this from Type A, element 16

im = lonarr(m, n)

Formally defined

> char?

Okay, so you can read <31 1024-blocks at a time, unformatted. Then you convert to a string and use reads.

```
ii = 0L
bb = bytarr(1024L*31) && ll = lonarr(170L*31)
while ii LT nvals do begin
  readu, lun, bb      ;; Read blocks
  reads, string(bb), ll  ;; Change to a string and parse into LONGs
  im(ii:ii+170-1) = ll  ;; Insert into image array
  ii = ii + n_elements(ll) ;; Advance array index
end
```

This doesn't handle the case of the first block, which only has 135 elements, but you should get the idea. Now why not try a little experimentation on your own...

Good luck,
Craig

P.S. I used a long integer because the values are defined in the spec as INTEGER*4.

--

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Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
