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Subject: Reading binary data whose source code not given

Posted by [madabhus](#) on Wed, 18 May 1994 14:25:01 GMT

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Hi. I have the following problem and hope some IDL expert can help me.

I have a binary file with a 400 by 400 array. All I know about the elements of that array is that they are written as 16-bit 2's complement data. The file was created on a pc. I am no sure about what language the software that creates this file is written in (and cannot find out :-( ).

I am using IDL version 3.0 on a Sun SPARC 10 workstation. I have tried reading the data onto a 400 by 400 integer array with and without using the "xdr" keyword (with the "openr" statement). I know that "xdr" was not used by the file-generating code, but I thought I would try it anyway. Also, I tried the "/f77\_unformatted" keyword, knowing full well that the file was created on a pc, but I was getting desperate!

None of the above attempts proved successful. (I compared the image plot with that from an ascii version of the file. The two plots are completely different. The binary data is read in ok - without any keywords - but none of the data points are read in correctly.)

So my question is: is there any way to read such data? I would be willing (and I also tried, but unsuccessfully) to read the data element by element.

Thanks in advance!

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-Rajiv

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