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Subject: Re: reading portions of a large binary file  
Posted by [oxfordenergyservices](#) on Sat, 08 Jan 2011 13:17:49 GMT  
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On Jan 8, 12:59 pm, geoff <oxfordenergyservi...@googlemail.com> wrote:

> Hi  
>  
> I have a large (4GB file) which is basically a large 2-D matrix of  
> elevations. I want to read just some portion of this file  
> (representing a lat/long box). I could read in the whole file line by  
> line (because it is too big for RAM) and just take out the relevant  
> bits, or preferably I want it to only read off the disc the relevant  
> bits of the file. Is this possible in IDL? I vaguely remember this  
> being possible in fortran but can't find it by googling.  
>  
> Thanks

if the answer I am looking for is read\_binary, then I've found it!

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Subject: Re: reading portions of a large binary file  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 08 Jan 2011 15:00:36 GMT  
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geoff writes:

> if the answer I am looking for is read\_binary, then I've found it!

The answer could well be Read\_Binary, but the method  
underlying that would be the associated variable method  
of reading the data. See the ASSOC command in IDL.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: reading portions of a large binary file  
Posted by [oxfordenergyservices](#) on Sat, 08 Jan 2011 15:38:27 GMT  
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On Jan 8, 3:00 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
> geoff writes:  
>> if the answer I am looking for is read\_binary, then I've found it!  
>  
> The answer could well be Read\_Binary, but the method  
> underlying that would be the associated variable method  
> of reading the data. See the ASSOC command in IDL.  
>

thanks. i used

```
strip=read_binary('bin',data_start=na*4,data_type=4,data_dim s=[n2-  
n1+1])
```

which seems to work fine except when na gets too big (my offset is 3 billion or so)

I assume I'll have the same problem in assoc because long ints don't go that high?

i'm assuming this is not possible then for an offset greater than max of long?

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Subject: Re: reading portions of a large binary file  
Posted by [oxfordenergyservices](#) on Sat, 08 Jan 2011 15:41:45 GMT  
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On Jan 8, 3:38 pm, geoff <oxfordenergyservi...@googlemail.com> wrote:  
> On Jan 8, 3:00 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
>  
>> geoff writes:  
>>> if the answer I am looking for is read\_binary, then I've found it!  
>  
>> The answer could well be Read\_Binary, but the method  
>> underlying that would be the associated variable method  
>> of reading the data. See the ASSOC command in IDL.  
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> strip=read\_binary('bin',data\_start=na\*4,data\_type=4,data\_dim s=[n2-  
> n1+1])  
>  
> which seems to work fine except when na gets too big (my offset is 3  
> billion or so)  
>  
> I assume I'll have the same problem in assoc because long ints don't  
> go that high?

>  
> i'm assuming this is not possible then for an offset greater than max  
> of long?

ahh! long64. all working! thanks David

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