
Subject: Re: opening/reading binary data

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 07 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Alf Rawlins wrote:

```
> 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)
> In IDL I did:
>   IDL>openr,1,'Global/dem/etopo5.dat',f77_unformatted
```

Leave out the f77_unformatted keyword. It only applies to FORTRAN unformatted *variable-length* records.

Cheers,
Liam.

Subject: Re: opening/reading binary data

Posted by [hto](#) on Tue, 08 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

rawlins@strauss.udel.edu (Michael Alf Rawlins) wrote:

```
> 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)

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

I believe that etopo5 contains integer data -- 16 or 32 bit in feet or meters. Try using either integer (16 bit) or long (32 bit) type in IDL. If you can't solve it, let me know. I've read the file using IDL but it was a long time ago. I can try to find the code.
Howard Onishi
