

# Exercise: Reading binary and ASCII files

**AIM:** To introduce you to utilities for reading binary or ASCII files.

## Issues covered:

- The binaryio package
- The asciidata package
- Writing/reading fortran style binary files

## Instructions

1. Create a simple 1-dimensional array.
2. Create a new data file 'bin\_data.dat' for writing binary data to (using the 'binaryio' package).



**Some tips:** `f=binaryio.bincreate(myfile),  
binaryio.binwrite(f, array) ; binaryio.close(f).`

3. Write the 1-dimensional array to the file.
4. Check the contents of the file outside of python ('od -f <file>').
5. Read the first 5 values of the array back in and print the results.
6. Examine the contents of the comma-delimited ASCII data file 'ascii\_vars.txt'.
7. Read the contents of the file using the 'asciidata.comma\_delimited' package.
8. Create a CDMS variable using the ozone quantity read from the ASCII file.