
Subject: Re: Reading in to array elements from a file.
Posted by [Kevin Ivory](#) on Wed, 22 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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[original message cited below]

Hi Neil,

There are two reasons the readf doesn't work as expected:

1. You cannot read into an array element. The only way to put a value into a single array element is to read it and assign it in the next statement:

```
value = 0
for i = 0, 5 do begin
  readf, inlun, value
  array[i] = value
endfor
```

2. Each readf statement reads a new line, so if there is more than one value per line, have to get all values from that line at once.

Instead of using the for loop, you should get the complete array in one read. This way, you don't have to worry about the items mentioned above.

```
readf, inlun, array
```

Hope this helps,
Kevin

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Kevin Ivory Tel: +49 5556 979 434
Max-Planck-Institut fuer Aeronomie Fax: +49 5556 979 240
Max-Planck-Str. 2 <mailto:Kevin.Ivory@linmpi.mpg.de>
D-37191 Katlenburg-Lindau, GERMANY <http://www.gwdg.de/~kivory2/>

Neil Rogers wrote:

```
>
> I wonder if anyone could solve the following mystery for me.
> I am trying to read in *individual* array elements from a file using
> the readf procedure. I have an input file called test.txt containing
> (say)
> 1 2 3 4 5 6
> and the following IDL procedure to read them in and print them out
> again.
> ;-----
> pro test
```

```
> array=intarr(6)
> infile='test.txt'
> openr,inlun,infile,/get_lun
> for cnt=0,5 do begin
>     readf,inlun,array[cnt]
> endfor
> close,inlun
> free_lun,inlun
> print,array
> return
> end
> ;-----
> Unfortunately, although no compile or run-time errors are encountered,
> nothing is assigned to the array elements and the file pointer stays
> at the beginning of the file. The output is then,
> 0 0 0 0 0 0
> Why is this?
> Thanks for your help.
>
> Neil.
```

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Kevin Ivory Tel: +49 5556 979 434
Max-Planck-Institut fuer Aeronomie Fax: +49 5556 979 240
Max-Planck-Str. 2 mailto:Kevin.Ivory@linmpi.mpg.de
D-37191 Katlenburg-Lindau, GERMANY http://www.gwdg.de/~kivory2/
