Subject: Re: Reading free format data
Posted by Pavel Romashkin on Mon, 28 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi Calvin,
I had to work on wierd file formats like this and found that the easiest thing to do is to read such files into string arrays, then convert them into FLOAT. I used byte conversions to check if I have an alphabetic character in a string, but in this case it is unnecessary because the third column is always a string.
I also "optimized" my code in the way that I stored the position in the file and then tried to read a large piece (FLOAT(2, 200)). If it failed, then I'd go row by row. If it worked, then I had read a big chunk very fast. My files were large and this paid off.
Another way is to read FLOAT(2) in a loop, storing the last position in the file. If the read failes (use on_ioError), then go back to last saved position and read a string, after which read FLOAT(2) again. But I am afraid there is no really neat and fast way.
Good luck,
Pavel

Calvin King wrote:

> I am trying to read a free format data file with variable number of
> columns. Some rows (non-sequential) contain 3 columns of data, while the
> others contain 2 columns of data. The first two columns contain FLOAT
> data, and the third column, if present, contains a string.
>
> What is the best way of handling such a data file?
>
> Thanks, in advance, for any help/suggestions!
>
> Calvin King
> Email: cking@sandia.gov