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Subject: Re: Help needed with reading ASCII data  
Posted by [Michael Asten](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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Liam Gumley wrote:I'm assuming your data file looks something like this:

```
>  
> 0, 0, 0.998  
> 1, 0, 0.976  
> 2, 0, 0.876  
>  
> It sounds like you're not really interested in the x and y coordinates,  
> since they are probably the same for all 22 time phases. In this case,  
> you can read the array in one hit:  
>  
> ;- Read the data file  
> openr, lun, 'mri.dat', /get_lun  
> data = fltarr(3, 38808)  
> readf, lun, data  
> free_lun, lun  
>  
> ;- Extract the magnitude array  
> h = data[2, *]  
> h = reform(h, 49, 36, 22)  
>  
> ;- Visualize the data as an image sequence  
> mag = 5  
> for index = 0, 21 do tvscl, rebin(h[*, *, index], mag*49, mag*36, 1,  
> /sample)  
>  
> Cheers,  
> Liam.  
>
```

Or, if your data file is not always of identical length, try using the idl routine READ\_ASCII, which will read an arbitrary number of columns and rows of any data type, into a structure.

Regards,  
Michael Asten

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