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Subject: Re: Help needed with reading ASCII data  
Posted by [Bernard Puc](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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Scott Reid wrote:

>  
> Hi All  
>  
> I'm completely new to IDL, and I have a set of data in ASCII format. It  
> is extracted from MRI data. It is a file which contains 3 columns of  
> data. The first column is the x, the second is the y coordinate and the  
> third is just a scaled magnitude value between 0 and 1. There are 38808  
> rows of data, and the matrix size is (49, 36) and there are 22 time  
> phases. I want to know if anyone has had experience in reading in data  
> of this type, and how to put it into an array that can be read by IDL.

I typically do something like this when reading delimited ASCII data.  
Each line is read into a string and then the string is divided into an  
array of strings. Then you do what you will with the values in the  
array:

```
OPENR,Lun,/Get_Lun,Filename
sString = "
WHILE NOT(EOF(Lun)) DO BEGIN
  READF,Lun,sString
  tempArray = str_sep(sString, string(byte(32))) ;Replace with ASCII code
  of delimiter
  index = WHERE( tempArray NE "", num)
  IF num GT 0 THEN tempArray = tempArray[index]

  x = float(tempArray[0])
  y = float(tempArray[1])
  s = float(tempArray[2])
;You would assign these values to fill your array: fltarr(49,36,22)

END
```

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