Subject: Re: need help with ascii I/O second try. Ignor first!!
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Tue, 04 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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peter brooker wrote:
> One of our measurement tools generate an ascii output file
> that looks like the following.
>
> DEVICE LAYER SLOT DATE TIME SITE MEAS
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:28:48 PM 1 0.5663
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:29:20 PM 2 0.5692
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:30:01 PM 3 0.5762
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:32:43 PM 4 0.5666
>
> The data I care about for each group are in the last two
> columns. I do not care about the first line. The spacing
> between the columns varies.
>
> What is the best way to read in the lines and then store
> the information from the last two columns into real arrays?

Try this:

```
;---cut here---
PRO TEST, DATA

;- Open the file
openr, lun, 'test.dat', /get_lun

;- Skip the first line
blank = ''
readf, lun, blank, format='(a1)'

;- Read all records
data = fltarr(2, 100000)
nrec = 0
while not eof(lun) do begin

  ;- Read current record
  record = ''
  readf, lun, record

  ;- Separate the string into columns
  record = strcompress(record)
  record = str_sep(record, ' ')

  ;- Get the last two columns
  ncols = n_elements(record)
```

```
  var1 = record[ncols - 2]
  var2 = record[ncols - 1]

  ;- Store in data array
  data[0, nrec] = float(var1)
  data[1, nrec] = float(var2)

  ;- Increment record counter
  nrec = nrec + 1

endwhile

;- Close the file
free_lun, lun

;- Trim data array
data = data[*, 0:nrec-1]

END
;---cut here---
```

Assuming your data file is named test.dat:

```
IDL> .compile test
% Compiled module: TEST.
IDL> test, data
% Compiled module: STR_SEP.
IDL> help, data
DATA           FLOAT     = Array[2, 4]
IDL> print, data
      1.00000     0.566300
      2.00000     0.569200
      3.00000     0.576200
      4.00000     0.566600
```

Cheers,
Liam.

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