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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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Liam E. Gumley  
Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison  
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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