
Subject: Re: Reading in text data

Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Tue, 08 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

reardonb@my-deja.com wrote:

```
>
> Hi. I am reading in text data (columns and rows of numbers) and I would
> like to know if there is a more elegant way of doing it. Currently, the
> user must specify how many columns there are. In my case the number of
> columns is manually inserted into the first line of the file like this:
>
> 3
> 0 1 2
> 1 2 3
> 2 3 4
> 3 4 5
> 4 5 6
> 5 6 7
> 6 7 8
> 7 8 9
> 8 9 10
> 9 10 11
```

There are lots of ways to attack this problem depending upon whether you need to operate on the data one-row-at-a-time, or if you need all the data stored into an array. Some potentially useful ideas are illustrated in this simple procedure...

```
infile = 'column.dat'          ;** ASCII input filename.
spawn, 'wc -l < ' + infile, num_recs ;** Number of rows in ASCII file
num_recs = long(num_recs(0))    ;** Convert to num_recs to LONG
data = strarr(num_recs)        ;** Declare output array
openr, iu, infile, /get_lun     ;** Open file
readf, iu, data                ;** Read ALL the data as a string
free_lun, iu                   ;** Close the file
```

```
;** Use help, to check size of arrays. Notice record #1.
for i = 0, num_recs-1 do help, long(str_sep(data(i),',',/rem))
```

```
;** Or use print, to check on value of array elements.
for i = 0, num_recs-1 do print, long(str_sep(data(i),',',/rem))
```

```
end
```

```
--
```

```
Andrew Loughe =====
NOAA/OAR/FSL/AD R/FS5 | email: loughe@fsl.noaa.gov
325 Broadway         | www: www-ad.fsl.noaa.gov/users/loughe
```

Boulder, CO 80305-3328 | phone: 303-497-6211 fax: 303-497-6301
