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Subject: Re: Reading in text data

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

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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
```

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