
Subject: Re: readcol procedure

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Fri, 13 Sep 2002 15:39:11 GMT

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Reimar Bauer wrote:

>

> if you use the eof method you have to read line by line. As you know idl
> is an array orientated language so reading in an array is much faster.
> It's really fast. If you have only 10 lines it doesn't matter but
> sometimes we got datafiles of nearly 100.000 lines. In this case it is
> very important.

I am sorry to disagree.

I routinely read large (60k-200k rows) ASCII files with unknown number of lines. I always use large arrays to read into and never ever use EOF with line by line reading.

All I have to do is to catch I/O error in case my buffer array is too big as my reading approaches the end of file, then look up what size it should have actually been, resize the buffer, then read the last portion of file only. Reading a file with 80k lines using this method takes about 0.1 s.

Take a look:

http://www.ainaco.com/idl/idl_library/read_ascii_columns.pro

Cheers,

Pavel
