Subject: Re: problem using strsplit
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 10 Jan 2003 14:52:55 GMT
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Brian (briana@zetica.com) writes:

> I am relatively new to IDL and am probably missing something very
> obvious. I am reading in an ascii tab separated file into a string
> array. I know how many rows the file will contain but not how many
> columns hence the string array.
> I then try to use strsplit to separate all the columns but have an
> error - it seems that the columns are not seen as separate.

I think your problem is that StrSplit doesn't work on arrays.
It only works on scalars. I would read this tab-separated data
with a little routine like this:

```
FUNCTION File_Lines, filename
   OPENR, unit, filename, /GET_LUN
   str = ''
   count = 0LL
   WHILE NOT EOF(unit) DO BEGIN
      READF, unit, str
      count = count + 1
   ENDWHILE
   FREE_LUN, unit
   RETURN, count
END

FUNCTION Read_Tab_Data, filename

   ; Calculate number of rows.
   IF N_Elements(filename) EQ 0 THEN filename = 'file2.txt'
   numrows = File_Lines(filename)
   ; Calculate number of columns.
   oneline = ""
   OpenR, lun, filename, /Get_Lun
   ReadF, lun, oneline
   numcolumns = N_Elements(StrSplit(oneline, /Extract))
   ; Rewind the file and read data.
   Point_Lun, lun, 0
   data = LonArr(numcolumns, numrows)
   ReadF, lun, data
   Free_Lun, lun
   ; Return the data.
   RETURN, data
END
```

You won't need File_Lines if you have IDL 5.6, it is built
in. Call the Read_Tab_Data function like this:

```
IDL> data = Read_Tab_Data('file2.txt')
IDL> Help, data
DATA            LONG     = Array[5, 5]
```

Cheers,

David
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