
Subject: Re: convert very large string to numeric
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 25 Aug 2003 21:31:04 GMT
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Mirko Vukovic wrote:

```
> Hello,
>
> I have a large two column matrix stored as a string, and I want to
> convert it to a two column float matrix.
>
> I've been using a rather convoluted method of flattening out the
> string matrix by replacing end-of-lines with spaces (having converted
> to byte array first), and then using ParseLine (from David F.'s web
> site) to get a vector of numbers:
>
>
> ByteBuffer = byte(self.CharBuffer)
> iSubs = where( (ByteBuffer eq 9b) or $
>               (ByteBuffer eq 10b) or $
>               (ByteBuffer eq 13b), cSubs)
> if cSubs ne 0 then begin
>   ByteBuffer[iSubs] = 32b
> endif
>
> ... etc
```

Oh

why did you operate with bytes?

Ok we do it in some cases too.

I would suggest to use bytes2strarr

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/bytes2strarr_dbase.pro.html

to convert the bytes to a stringarray. This means it is not necessary to
convert 9b,10b,13b to 32b.

result is a string array.

From a string array it is easy to read by reads values from strings.

If you original have an ascii file I would suggest to use our
`read_data_file`.

It has two modes. default is table orientated with the `/vstruct` keyword you

can change it into column orientated.

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/read_data_file_dbase.pro.html

regards

Reimar

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Forschungszentrum Juelich

email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
