
Subject: Re: Very slow IDL vs Matlab (ascii file reading)
Posted by [Richard French](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2003 12:38:20 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

OK, I figured out a work-around using STRSPLIT:

; write the data file

```
x=make_array(/double,value=999.d0,660L*496L)
w=17L*660L*496L
openw,lun,/get_lun,'Mydata.dat',width=w
PRINTF,lun,x
free_lun,lun
; read the file as a single string
s=""
openr,lun,'Mydata.dat',/get_lun
readf,lun,s
IDL> help,s
S      STRING  = '    999.00000    999.00000
999.000'...
free_lun,lun
;convert the long string to desired floating point array
Data=fltarr(660,496)
Reads,strsplit(s,/EXTRACT),data
```

This is fast, and should do what you need without having to split the file itself in to shorter lines. You can do it all in IDL.

Dick French
