
Subject: Re: Extracting strings from an array
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sat, 28 Feb 2004 07:30:34 GMT
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jcdmesq@hotmail.com (Lin) writes:

> Hi folks, I need some help!! I'm not familiar to IDL.
>
> I have an array and I must extract some elements from it. The elements
> I need to extract are always after a name. As an example I have the
> array:
>
> x1024 y1024 lat-22.500000 lon-49.500000 range10.000000
>
> The elements I need to extract are 1024, 1024, -22.5, -49.5 and
> 10.0000. They are always after x, y, lat, lon and range.
>
> How can I do to extract them?? I need some like: "get nn after xx"...

Probably the best tool for the job is Perl. Text processing is its forte.

IDL does have regular expression matching, which may be enough for you. I've never used it myself (I just go right to the Perl).

Beyond that, you can do things like use STRPOS to locate the strings of interest. Then you add an offset to pull out the value you need.

Example:

```
ip = strpos('lat', strdata) ;; Locate 'lat'  
if ip GE 0 then lat = float(strmid(strdata,ip+3)) ; Pull out float after 'lat'
```

This can be tricky if your keyword names are substrings of each other though.

A *really* subversive thing to do, which is thus the obvious technique for me to try myself, is to replace 'lat' with 'lat:', and so on, wrap the whole string in curly braces, and then EXECUTE() it into a structure. That will need some error trapping though.

Hope those suggestions helped!
Craig

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