
Subject: Re: how to make it an array?

Posted by [Gauri Kulkarni](#) on Mon, 19 Apr 2004 16:47:03 GMT

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Maybe what you are looking for is the procedure READCOL. It reads any file with data in column form. It ignores anything in that file that is not in the column form. It usually comes with astronomy libraries, but very easy to find on the web and download. Here is a sample:

```
IDL> readcol,'random_catalog_xyz.dat',x,y,z
% Compiled module: READCOL.
% Compiled module: NUMLINES.
% READCOL: Format keyword not supplied - All columns assumed floating
point
% Compiled module: GETTOK.
% Compiled module: REPCHR.
% Compiled module: STRNUMBER.
% READCOL: 957153 valid lines read
IDL> array = transpose([[x],[y],[z]])
IDL> help,array
ARRAY      FLOAT    = Array[3, 957153]
IDL>
```

It took about 30 seconds to read those many rows. So it's fairly fast.
Hope this helps.

Gauri.

On Sun, 18 Apr 2004, Thomas Nehls wrote:

```
> Hi,
>
> as the result of calculations I produced a 3 column .dat-file . While
> using /APPEND and after calculation of some images of 400x400 the length
> of the file is about 1,000,000 rows.
>
> For further calculation I want to read the .dat-file(using read_ascii?)
> into an array. I already got the file read but the type is struct and
> the value is anonymous.
> How can I make it an array?
> Thanks
> Tom
>
>
```
