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Subject: Re: readf help!

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 14 Feb 2006 19:14:29 GMT

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Jonathan Wolfe wrote:

> Thank you Paul! That was my problem. I didn't define the variable as  
> a long to begin with. Actually, I rarely define them first... A habit I  
> will start from now on! Thanks again! Jon

BTW, if you want the code to run even faster, then you may want to read all the data into a correctly sized array rather than use a for or while loop, e.g. instead of

```
while not eof(lun) do begin
  readf, lun, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h
  ....
endwhile
```

do something like

```
pro test_read
  openr,lun,'data.asc',/get_lun
  nvar=8 ; No of variables in a line
  nlin=3 ; No of lines to read
  a=dblarr(nvar,nlin) ; Note it's DBL for the "b" time value
  readf, lun, a
  print, a, format='(8(1x,e16.9))'
  free_lun, lun
end
```

```
IDL> test_read
 1.000000000e+00 1.137369600e+09 0.000000000e+00 0.000000000e+00
2.220000000e+00
-3.000000000e-01 9.300000000e+00 9.400000000e+00
 1.000000000e+00 1.137369601e+09 0.000000000e+00 0.000000000e+00
2.220000000e+00
-3.000000000e-01 9.200000000e+00 9.400000000e+00
 1.000000000e+00 1.137369602e+09 0.000000000e+00 0.000000000e+00
2.320000000e+00
-3.000000000e-01 9.300000000e+00 9.400000000e+00
```

The only downside is that you have to know how many lines there are in your data files to correctly set the "nlin" dimension of "a", but your original post suggested that you do (the "vs" variable).

paulv

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Paul van Delst

