
Subject: Re: Reading both strings and floats from an ASCII file
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 2006 04:28:05 GMT
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Juan Arrieta writes:

> The output of a trajectory optimization routine looks as follows:
> COLS: 5
> ROWS: 110
> NAMES: <U1><U2><STATE 1><STATE 2><FINAL STATE>
> 6.0000E+00 -3.3333E-01 -1.8329E+00 5.0000E-01
> -3.6879E-01
> 1.2000E+01 -3.3333E-01 -1.1517E+00 5.0000E-01
> -2.1062E+00
> ... (more rows)
>
> I would like to read the NAMES into an array so I can, say, create the
> plot labels in a more efficient manner. The names can change from a few
> letters to a few words (i.e. unknown width). Also, the number of columns
> (thus names) can change drastically.
>
> I know how to read the number of columns, rows, and the data itself.
> Only the names are giving me a headache. Any pointers, IDL experts?

Off-hand, I would try something like this:

```
; Read the first three lines of the file into a string array.  
OpenR, lun, filename, /Get_Lun  
header = StrArr(3)  
ReadF, lun, header
```

```
; Parse the header for information.  
cols = Fix(StrMid(header[0],5))  
rows = Fix(StrMid(header[1],5))  
namestr = StrMid(header[2], 6)  
names = StrSplit(namestr, '[><]', /Regex, /Extract)
```

Cheers,

David

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