
Subject: READS, input, struct vs. READS, input, var1,var2, etc.

Posted by [Pete Warner](#) on Thu, 07 Sep 2006 21:05:13 GMT

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I've been reading large ascii text files into IDL and discovered a huge difference in run time when using READS and structures versus READS and other variables. What is going on?

The slow way:

```
struct = {teststruct, var1:0, var2:0.0, str1:''}  
reads, linefromfile, struct, format='(I2, F10.3, A0)'
```

Somehow way faster:

```
var1=0  
var2=0.0  
str1=""  
reads, linefromfile, var1, var2, str1, format='(I2, F10.3, A0)'  
struct = {teststruct, var1:var1, var2:var2, str1:str1}
```

Could someone explain why the first way is so slow? It is quite noticeable in my program, running in 2.7 seconds the first way and 0.125s the second. The actual lines I'm reading are much longer than the examples above. Anything that could help me avoid similar problems would be great.
