
Subject: Re: can i read multiple files?

Posted by [Braedley](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 12:08:26 GMT

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zircola wrote:

> hi..i am relatively new to idl. i got to this newsgroup through
> dfanning website..now i was thinking if i can read multiple files at
> the same time in one procedure. can this be done in idl?
> thanks

An addendum to David's post, setting the multiple keyword in `dialog_pickfile` will return a string array of all the selected files, then it's just a matter of for looping through the array and opening each one, such as:

```
files=dialog_pickfile(/multi, filter=filter, path=path, title=title)
n_files=n_elements(files)
for i=0, n_files-1 do begin
    ;Read the file. In this case, we'll say it's one line of ASCII
    openr, lun, /get_lun, files[i]
    readf, lun, data
    data=fix(data)
    free_lun, lun
    ;Perform the remainder of the analysis for this data
endfor
```

It's probably not a good idea to load every file into a variable at once unless each file is small and uniform, as that can quickly take up memory.
