
Subject: READS as a speed improvement or simply style?
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Thu, 08 Feb 2007 21:19:53 GMT
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This should be simple for folks out there. Is reads fast as I suspect it is as compared to other ways?

```
; start with a date yyyydddhhmmss format
euv_date2 = '2000111223344'
; I want to split it into an array
; this can be done this way:
year  = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 0, 4)
doy   = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 4, 3)
hour  = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 7, 2)
minute = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 9, 2)
second = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 11, 2)
time_arr = [year, doy, hour, minute, second]

; or this way
time_arr = strarr(5)
reads, euv_date2, time_arr, format='(a4,a3,a2,a2,a2)'
```

```
I tested the speed with this code:
timer, 0, /start
FOR i=0!, 1e6 DO BEGIN
    euv_date2 = '2000111223344'
; I want to split it into an array
; this can be done this way:
    year  = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 0, 4)
    doy   = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 4, 3)
    hour  = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 7, 2)
    minute = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 9, 2)
    second = strmid(trim(euv_date2), 11, 2)
    time_arr = [year, doy, hour, minute, second]
ENDFOR
timer, 0, /stop, /print
timer, 1, /start
FOR i=0!, 1e6 DO BEGIN
    time_arr = strarr(5)
    reads, euv_date2, time_arr, format='(a4,a3,a2,a2,a2)'
ENDFOR
timer, 1, /stop, /print
END
```

to this result:
IDL> .run test
% Compiled module: \$MAIN\$.
Timer 0 started: 2007 Feb 8 14:16:59 Thu

Timer 0 stopped: 2007 Feb 8 14:17:29 Thu
Elapsed time: 00:00:29 (29.851995 sec)
Timer 0 started: 2007 Feb 8 14:17:29 Thu
Timer 0 stopped: 2007 Feb 8 14:17:37 Thu
Elapsed time: 00:00:08 (8.1684880 sec)

Which is pretty amazing!!!

anyone have any evidence real or experiential on how much faster reads
is for other examples?

Brian

Brian A. Larsen
Dept. of Physics
Space Science and Engineering Lab (SSEL)
Montana State University - Bozeman
Bozeman, MT 59717
