
Subject: Re: help automating 'read in process' and general automating help

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Sat, 23 Aug 2008 03:37:28 GMT

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On Aug 22, 9:33 pm, mbwel...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi all,

>

> I need to read in anywhere from 200 to 36000 ascii files and convert
> them into .sav files. I was looking for some help in running a script
> to do this.

>

> I've been using this method (below), but it is far too time consuming
> with this many files.

>

> -----

> IDL> table = read_ascii('g:\Mars_tectonics\10deg_analysis
> \a6.txt',template=ascii_template('g:\Mars_tectonics\10deg_analysis
> \a6.txt'))

>

> IDL> help,table,/structure

> ** Structure <1229360>, 3 tags, length=300, data length=300, refs=1:

> FIELD1 INT Array[30]

> FIELD2 FLOAT Array[30]

> FIELD3 FLOAT Array[30]

> IDL> a6=fltarr(3,30)

> IDL> a6[0,*]=table.field1

> IDL> a6[1,*]=table.field2

> IDL> a6[2,*]=table.field3

> save,a6,filename='g:\mars_tectonics\10deg_analysis\a6.sav'

> -----

>

> They'll mostly be of this format and the naming convention is A-R and
> 1-16 (for this smaller iteration).

> This is important: if no file is found, i need it to create an array
> of 0's.

> Eventually, perhaps the end of this week, I'll need to work this
> reading method into my actual computational program, but that's a
> little bit later.

>

> As an aside, does anyone know of a way/program/code that'll automate
> the conversion of dbase files to ASCII? I have a program now that does
> it, but it only does one at a time and adds odd characters that I then
> must go in to manually delete.... Time consuming...

>

> Thanks,

> ~Matt

READCOL in the IDL Astronomy User's library might be useful for reading them in. And FILE_SEARCH would also be useful for figuring out if a given file exists or not.

-Jeremy.
