
Subject: Reading multiple ASCII files in as 2d arrays and putting them into a 3d array

Posted by [polystethylene](#) on Sun, 15 Feb 2009 18:10:57 GMT

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Hi,
I'm new to IDL, programming, and usenet groups, so please forgive me if I do something wrong... I found a thread with a similar problem (from 2006), and I initially replied in that thread, but I can't see the post so I'm starting a new thread.

The problem I have is as thus:

I have 125 ASCII files, of varying row length, and I want to read them into 3-d array. So far I have this:

```
FOR i=1,125 do begin
infile = string(i,format='("LCgen/20090127/",i3.3,".dump")')
OPENR,lun,infile,/GET_LUN
rows = FILE_LINES(infile)
data = fltarr(10,70,125)
framearray = fltarr(10,rows)
READF,lun,format = '(l2,1x,l2,1x,l2,2x,F0,2x,l0,5F0.3)',framearray
close,lun
free_lun,lun
;data[10,*,i] = framearray
print,framearray
ENDFOR
```

I've tried two approaches. First of all, I've tried reading each file into the array 'framearray', and then subsequently (within the loop) placing the 2-d array (framearray) into the 3-d array (data), with something like this:

```
data[*,*,i] = framearray
```

but this complains that array is the wrong size. (I assume its possible to put a smaller array into a larger array without IDL complaining - I figured it would fill the rest of the space with zeros?).

The other approach I've tried (but I don't know the syntax) is to change the name of 'framearray' with each pass of the loop, i.e. with something like

```
readf,lun,'framearray'+strtrim(i,2)
```

but I get an error saying something like : 'Attempt to store into an

expression: <STRING blah'

in supermongo, I would be able to refer to the value of the loop index with '\$i', but I'm not sure how I do that in IDL....

i.e. take the loop index (which I assume is automatically an integer), make it a string, concatenate with the array prefix, and turn the whole thing back into an expression that READF will digest...

i.e. I will end up with 125 arrays, framearray1 - framearray125.

Can anyone help (or understand my rambling)?

Thanks,

Stefan
