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Subject: Re: reading in a series of images  
Posted by [Phil Partain](#) on Wed, 31 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT  
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Salvador Borges wrote:

>  
> I would like to read in a series of images from a file folder. the  
> names of files would be serially incremented, like a01, a02 etc or  
> odd/even increments like a01, a03 etc  
>  
> Is there an easy and efficient way to do this?  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> Salvador Borges

It is very easy to read a series of files from a folder, especially when they are serially incremented in a folder. This is the way I would do it for a series of files like a01, a02, ...

```
file = FINDFILE('a*')    This returns a string array of all the files  
                        in the directory that fit under a*.
```

Check out what this returns. If the files are in numerical order in this string array, then you can just loop over `n_elements(file)-1` and open and read each file. If the file names are not in numerical order in the array 'file' then you must sort the files according to the numbers in the filename:

```
nums = STRMID(file,1,2)   This would extract '01' from 'a01'
```

```
nums = FIX(nums)         Because the extracted '01' is a string,  
                        this converts the nums array to integers.
```

```
file = file(SORT(nums))   Then we sort the 'file' array according to  
                        the numerical order of nums.
```

Now you can loop over 'file' and open and read the data:

```
for i=0,n_elements(file)-1 do begin  
  OPENR,1,file(i)  
  read the data how you like  
  CLOSE,1  
endfor
```

I hope this is close to what you were trying to do.

