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Subject: Re: Calling vectors in readcol from a string array?

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 08 Jul 2013 20:51:22 GMT

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On Monday, July 8, 2013 12:37:17 PM UTC-4, pslo...@gmail.com wrote:

>  
> I have tried using the execute command (i.e. execute('readcol,' + spreadsheets[I] + ',' +  
vectorname1[I] + ',' ...) but IDL returns an error when it encounters the additional quotes in the  
format keyword.

>  
I'm not sure I completely understand the question but here's a try.

Use double quotes for the format keyword so it won't be confused with the single quotes used for  
EXECUTE().

While you should be able to use EXECUTE(), it might be better to use SCOPE\_VARFETCH() to  
create a new variable given its string name. The little program below prompts the user to  
create a variable name, and then assigns the output of READCOL into that named variable.

```
pro test
```

```
;Ask user to supply a variable name  
vectorname = "  
read,'Enter Vector name: ',vectorname
```

```
; Use READCOL to read into a temporary variable  
readcol,'test.dat',temp
```

```
;Assign temporary variable to user-supplied variable name  
(scope_varfetch(vectorname,/enter)) = temporary(temp)
```

```
return  
end
```

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