
Subject: operating on tab-/comma-delimited files
Posted by [Seb](#) on Wed, 28 Aug 2013 16:56:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

I am in the process of updating code I've inherited as I learn IDL, and noticed that it uses the following workflow for fixing errors in tab-/comma-delimited files:

1. Use `file_search` to generate a list of files to work on
2. Use FOR loop to iterate through each file
 - 2.1 Create a float array with the same dimensions as input file
 - 2.2 Load the data into a string array with `'openr' -> 'strarr' -> 'readf' -> 'close'`
 - 2.3 Loop through each line doing various tests/operations
 - 2.4 Copy the fixed data into the float array in 2.1
3. Write the float array with `'openw' -> 'printf' -> 'close'`

Based on what I'm reading, it seems this should be more efficient by using `'read_ascii'` and then fixing the errors with array indexing and then writing the data back. Is this worth pursuing, or are there any recommendations for a module I should know about?

Thanks,

--

Seb
