Subject: Re: operating on tab-/comma-delimited files
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 28 Aug 2013 17:11:47 GMT

Seb writes:

>
> 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?

Normally you step through as file like this reading a line at a time if
the problems with the file are more difficult to deal with than the
simple problems READ_ASCII can handle. We can't say without seeing the
file itself.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")