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Subject: Re: Create an array for data opened and read from text file

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2017 15:00:37 GMT

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On Thursday, 9 February 2017 20:44:07 UTC-8, Cheryl wrote:

> Hi,

>

> I might be over thinking this but I could use some help. I wrote this code that opens and reads data from a text file. I am trying to create an array for the data that was opened, read, and printed, however, my attempts for creating an array for the data are all unsuccessful: mwell=float(x, logx, y) . Can anyone identify the problem?

>

>

> pro read\_text, file, dir

>

> dir='C:\Users\shereen\Videos'

> file= 'C:\Users\shereen\Videos\test.txt'

>

> n = file\_lines(file)

> x= fltarr(n)

> y= fltarr(n)

> logx= fltarr(n)

> x0= 0.0

> logx0= 0.0

> y0=0.0

>

>

> openr, iunit, file, /get\_lun

>

> for i= 0, n-1 do begin

>

> readf, iunit, x0, logx0, y0

>

> x[i]= x0

>

> logx[i]= logx0

>

> y[i]=[y0]

>

> endfor

>

>

> free\_lun, iunit

>

> for i = 0, n-1 do print, x[i], logx[i], y[i]

> ;;idl prints

> 0.115825 0.251150 0.344600

> 0.0822174 0.266348 0.406000

```

> [...]
> 0.441343 0.210971 0.441343
>
> mwell=float(x, logx, y) ;I want to create an array for the printed data without changing the size,
dimension, etc..
>
> end
>
>
> Thank you.

```

Hi Cheryl,

The array I think you are trying to create would be:

```
mwell = Float(3, n)
```

```

; and then,
mwell[0, *] = x
mwell[1, *] = logx
mwell[2, *] = y

```

But since you know the structure of the file, the whole thing could be simplified (in the "IDL Way") as:

```

pro read_text, file, dir

dir='C:\Users\shereen\Videos'
file= 'C:\Users\shereen\Videos\test.txt'

n = file_lines(file)
mwell = Float(3, n)

openr, iunit, file, /get_lun

readf, iunit, mwell

free_lun, iunit

end

```

Another option is to use an array of structures, where you would just define mwell as:

```
mwell = Replicate({x:0.0, logx:0.0, y:0.0}, n)
```

(all else remains the same!)

... and then you can use "mwell.x" to refer to the array of 'x' values, which is clearer than using "mwell[0, \*]". Same goes for mwell.logx and mwell.y.

I hope this helps!

Cheers,  
-Dick

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