
Subject: Re: need help with ascii I/O second try. Ignor first!!
Posted by [peter brooker\[1\]](#) on Tue, 04 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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thanks Liam. This is exactly what I needed.

Peter Brooker

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Subject: Re: need help with ascii I/O second try. Ignor first!!
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 04 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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peter brooker wrote:

> One of our measurement tools generate an ascii output file
> that looks like the following.
>
> DEVICE LAYER SLOT DATE TIME SITE MEAS
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:28:48 PM 1 0.5663
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:29:20 PM 2 0.5692
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:30:01 PM 3 0.5762
> x19y n53 B2 8/24/99 8:32:43 PM 4 0.5666
>
> The data I care about for each group are in the last two
> columns. I do not care about the first line. The spacing
> between the columns varies.
>
> What is the best way to read in the lines and then store
> the information from the last two columns into real arrays?

Try this:

```
;---cut here---  
PRO TEST, DATA
```

```
;- Open the file  
openr, lun, 'test.dat', /get_lun
```

```
;- Skip the first line  
blank = ""  
readf, lun, blank, format='(a1)'
```

```
;- Read all records  
data = fltarr(2, 100000)
```

```

nrec = 0
while not eof(lun) do begin

;- Read current record
record = "
readf, lun, record

;- Separate the string into columns
record = strcompress(record)
record = str_sep(record, ' ')

;- Get the last two columns
ncols = n_elements(record)
var1 = record[ncols - 2]
var2 = record[ncols - 1]

;- Store in data array
data[0, nrec] = float(var1)
data[1, nrec] = float(var2)

;- Increment record counter
nrec = nrec + 1

endwhile

;- Close the file
free_lun, lun

;- Trim data array
data = data[*, 0:nrec-1]

END
---cut here---

```

Assuming your data file is named test.dat:

```

IDL> .compile test
% Compiled module: TEST.
IDL> test, data
% Compiled module: STR_SEP.
IDL> help, data
DATA      FLOAT   = Array[2, 4]
IDL> print, data
 1.00000  0.566300
 2.00000  0.569200
 3.00000  0.576200
 4.00000  0.566600

```

Cheers,
Liam.

--
Liam E. Gumley
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