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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 16:38:53 GMT  
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On May 8, 12:18 pm, te...@atmsci.msrc.sunysb.edu wrote:  
> Hi, I am trying to read in a long line which has around 2520 values  
> all in scientific notation (ie 1.2E+02, etc). I tried the following:  
>  
> x=strarr(2520)  
> x[\*]='12345678'  
> readu,unit,x  
>  
> Then converting to floating point. This doesn't seem to work since  
> the data is in scientific notation. Does anyone have any suggestions?  
>

Hi,

The easiest way might be the following...

```
x = ""  
READF, U, x  
x = FLOAT(STRSPLIT(x, ",",/EXTRACT))
```

which assumes comma delimited data.

If you know exactly how many items are in a row you can get fancier with explicit format statements. But this simpler form should be OK.

Cheers,  
Ben

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 16:43:50 GMT  
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teich@atmsci.msrc.sunysb.edu writes:

> Hi, I am trying to read in a long line which has around 2520 values  
> all in scientific notation (ie 1.2E+02, etc). I tried the following:  
>  
> x=strarr(2520)  
> x[\*]='12345678'  
> readu,unit,x  
>  
> Then converting to floating point. This doesn't seem to work since  
> the data is in scientific notation. Does anyone have any suggestions?

I would suggest less fuzzy thinking. :-)

What is a "line" of data? Computers don't do "around" or "about" anything. They are like children. They have to be told explicitly.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Do you know anything more exact about this data? Do you know, for example, if it is really saved in an unformatted data file?

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [teich](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 16:56:57 GMT  
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Sorry, maybe I should have been more explicit. The data is not unformatted but I tried that because otherwise I get an error messege:

Input line is too long for input buffer of 32767 characters.

Ben, thanks for your suggestion, but I also get that error messege trying your suggestion.

To be more explicit, each line of data looks something like this (where there are 2520 columns):

```
1.0117065e+003 1.0114794e+003 1.0112352e+003 1.0110832e+003  
1.0109401e+003 ...
```

Thanks,

Howard

On May 8, 12:43 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
> te...@atmsci.msrb.sunysb.edu writes:

>> Hi, I am trying to read in a long line which has around 2520 values  
>> all in scientific notation (ie 1.2E+02, etc). I tried the following:  
>  
>> x=strarr(2520)  
>> x[\*]='12345678'  
>> readu,unit,x  
>  
>> Then converting to floating point. This doesn't seem to work since  
>> the data is in scientific notation. Does anyone have any suggestions?  
>  
> I would suggest less fuzzy thinking. :-)  
>  
> What is a "line" of data? Computers don't do  
> "around" or "about" anything. They are like  
> children. They have to be told explicitly.  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>  
> P.S. Do you know anything more exact about this data?  
> Do you know, for example, if it is really saved in  
> an unformatted data file?  
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> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 17:08:22 GMT  
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teich@atmsci.msrc.sunysb.edu writes:

> Sorry, maybe I should have been more explicit.

Well, only if you want a sensible answer to your question. :-)

> The data is not  
> unformatted but I tried that because otherwise I get an error messege:  
>  
> Input line is too long for input buffer of 32767 characters.  
>  
> Ben, thanks for your suggestion, but I also get that error messege  
> trying your suggestion.

>  
> To be more explicit, each line of data looks something like this  
> (where there are 2520 columns):  
>  
>  
> 1.0117065e+003 1.0114794e+003 1.0112352e+003 1.0110832e+003  
> 1.0109401e+003 ...

Try this then:

```
Openr, lun, 'yourdatafile.dat', /Get_Lun
data = fltarr(2520)
ReadF, lun, data
Free_lun, lun
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [teich](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 17:14:05 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On May 8, 1:08 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> te...@atmsci.msrb.sunysb.edu writes:  
>> Sorry, maybe I should have been more explicit.  
>  
> Well, only if you want a sensible answer to your question. :-)  
>  
>> The data is not  
>> unformatted but I tried that because otherwise I get an error message:  
>  
>> Input line is too long for input buffer of 32767 characters.  
>  
>> Ben, thanks for your suggestion, but I also get that error message  
>> trying your suggestion.  
>  
>> To be more explicit, each line of data looks something like this  
>> (where there are 2520 columns):  
>  
>> 1.0117065e+003 1.0114794e+003 1.0112352e+003 1.0110832e+003  
>> 1.0109401e+003 ...

>  
> Try this then:  
>  
> Openr, lun, 'yourdatafile.dat', /Get\_Lun  
> data = fltarr(2520)  
> ReadF, lun, data  
> Free\_lun, lun  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

That's typically what I do. I think the version of IDL I am using doesn't like this because the line of data is too long so I still get the same error.

---

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 17:24:25 GMT  
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teich@atmsci.msrc.sunysb.edu writes:

> That's typically what I do. I think the version of IDL I am using  
> doesn't like this because the line of data is too long so I still get  
> the same error.

Sigh...

I'm out of time to work on this, but next time you try a question, please let us know what you have tried, what didn't work, and what the details are. I makes it a LOT easier to find time to help.

I remember a discussion about this on the newsgroup recently. I can't remember what the bottom line was. Probably try to divide the file up into shorter lines. But I have to go.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 11:15:44 GMT  
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On May 8, 6:24 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
> te...@atmsci.msrc.sunysb.edu writes:  
>> That's typically what I do. I think the version of IDL I am using  
>> doesn't like this because the line of data is too long so I still get  
>> the same error.  
>  
> Sigh...  
>  
> I'm out of time to work on this, but next time you  
> try a question, please let us know what you have tried,  
> what didn't work, and what the details are. I makes it  
> a LOT easier to find time to help.  
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> I remember a discussion about this on the newsgroup  
> recently. I can't remember what the bottom line was.  
> Probably try to divide the file up into shorter lines.  
> But I have to go.  
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> Cheers,  
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> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

David,

you once wrote a nice little programme called Read\_Tab\_Lines which may  
be of some use here:

<http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/msg/7b09330c920aefea>

I'm not sure how ReadF handles cross-platform compatability regarding  
carriage return / line feed use to determine where a row ends.  
Sometimes ReadF seems to stop at the end of a row for me; sometimes it  
thinks the whole file is one row, even if I can \*see\* the carriage

returns in it when I open it in WordPad.

Regards,  
Chris

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 13:28:32 GMT  
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Spon writes:

> you once wrote a nice little programme called Read\_Tab\_Lines which may  
> be of some use here:

Humm, I don't think so, since the problem is that the file  
is filling up the character buffer.

I think the usual solution is to open this file in some  
kind of word processor, turn on word wrapping, and save  
the file with some reasonable length lines. But some word  
processors won't allow you to load a line of that length  
either.

In that case, I think you have to make a large byte  
array and try to read the data that way, then process  
the byte array to obtain the data. I guess I would  
try something like this.

```
OpenR, lun, 'myfile.dat', /Get_Lun
info = FSTAT(lun)
data = BytArr(info.size)
ReadU, lun, data
Free_lun, lun
actualData = Float(StrSplit(String(data), /EXTRACT))
```

Cheers,

David

--

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Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data

Posted by [edward.s.meinel@aero](mailto:edward.s.meinel@aero). on Fri, 09 May 2008 14:03:03 GMT

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OK, I must be missing something. Doesn't READ\_ASCII work on this type of file?

Ed

On May 8, 12:56 pm, te...@atmsci.msrb.sunysb.edu wrote:

> Sorry, maybe I should have been more explicit. The data is not  
> unformatted but I tried that because otherwise I get an error message:

>  
> Input line is too long for input buffer of 32767 characters.

>  
> Ben, thanks for your suggestion, but I also get that error message  
> trying your suggestion.

>  
> To be more explicit, each line of data looks something like this  
> (where there are 2520 columns):

>  
> 1.0117065e+003 1.0114794e+003 1.0112352e+003 1.0110832e+003  
> 1.0109401e+003 ...

>  
> Thanks,

>  
> Howard

>  
> On May 8, 12:43 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>  
>> te...@atmsci.msrb.sunysb.edu writes:

>>> Hi, I am trying to read in a long line which has around 2520 values  
>>> all in scientific notation (ie 1.2E+02, etc). I tried the following:

>  
>>> x=strarr(2520)  
>>> x[\*]='12345678'  
>>> readu,unit,x

>  
>>> Then converting to floating point. This doesn't seem to work since  
>>> the data is in scientific notation. Does anyone have any suggestions?

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>> I would suggest less fuzzy thinking. :-)

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>> What is a "line" of data? Computers don't do  
>> "around" or "about" anything. They are like  
>> children. They have to be told explicitly.

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>> David

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>> P.S. Do you know anything more exact about this data?  
>> Do you know, for example, if it is really saved in  
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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 14:26:37 GMT  
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edward.s.meinel@aero.org writes:

> OK, I must be missing something. Doesn't READ\_ASCII work on this type  
> of file?

Not sure what "type of file" you are talking about.

Our problem is that the first line of the file in question is so long it is filling up the input buffer such that READF doesn't work. I've never used READ\_ASCII in my life, but I can't imagine it uses anything \*except\* READF to do its job.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 14:31:43 GMT  
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On May 9, 2:28 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Spon writes:

>> you once wrote a nice little programme called Read\_Tab\_Lines which may

>> be of some use here:  
>  
> Humm, I don't think so, since the problem is that the file  
> is filling up the character buffer.  
>  
> I think the usual solution it to open this file in some  
> kind of word processor, turn on word wrapping, and save  
> the file with some reasonable length lines. But some word  
> processors won't allow you to load a line of that length  
> either.  
>  
> In that case, I think you have to make a large byte  
> array and try to read the data that way, then process  
> the byte array to obtain the data. I guess I would  
> try something like this.  
>  
> OpenR, lun, 'myfile.dat', /Get\_Lun  
> info = FSTAT(lun)  
> data = BytArr(info.size)  
> ReadU, lun, data  
> Free\_lun, lun  
> actualData = Float(StrSplit(String(data), /EXTRACT))  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
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> --  
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Is there any reason not to use the following?

```
OpenR, lun, 'myfile.dat', /Get_Lun
info = FSTAT(lun)
data = FLTARR(Info.Size / 4L)
readu, lun, data
Free_lun, lun
```

There's something fundamental about this input buffer that I'm not getting here :-(

I have a file that looks like this:

```
8.06"89676e-002 9.0884782e-002 5.1953532e-002 8.1742041e-002
5.8772590e-002 6.7513607e-002 5.1806606e-002 "...
```

And I'm easily able to read 1.8 million floats from it at once, like

this:

```
OPENR, Lun, File, /GET_LUN
FileSize = (FSTAT(Lun)).Size / 4L
Data = FLTARR(FileSize)
READU, Lun, Data
FREE_LUN, Lun
HELP, Data
IDL> DATA      FLOAT   = Array[1800720]
PRINT, Data[1800710:*]
IDL> 1.16934e-019 2.69980e-006 1.67846e-007 6.30809e-010 4.93642e-031
4.14105e-011 1.04315e-008 5.46591e+022 1.02555e-008 1.16934e-019
```

Surely, this is equivalent to  $(1800720 * 4)$  bytes, or  $(1800720 * 4 * 8)$  bits, or  $(1800720 * 13)$  ASCII chars, and therefore massively bigger than the buffer. Yet IDL has no problem doing this. What am I missing? Does the buffer only come into play with ReadF? How come?

Regards,  
Chris

---

---

Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 14:37:37 GMT  
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---

Spon writes:

> Surely, this is equivalent to  $(1800720 * 4)$  bytes, or  $(1800720 * 4 * 8)$  bits, or  $(1800720 * 13)$  ASCII chars, and therefore massively bigger than the buffer. Yet IDL has no problem doing this. What am I missing?  
> Does the buffer only come into play with ReadF?

Apparently so.

> How come?

You've got me. Maybe Karl or someone else from ITTVIS can shed some light on this. To be fair, it is usually some kind of programming error that causes this problem to surface. But I would like to understand it, since it comes up from time to time.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 14:42:47 GMT  
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On May 9, 3:03 pm, "edward.s.mei...@aero.org" <mei...@aero.org> wrote:  
> OK, I must be missing something. Doesn't READ\_ASCII work on this type  
> of file?  
>  
> Ed

So must I. At the very least, it's surely got to be worth attempting:

```
File = 'myfile.dat'  
Data = READ_BINARY(File, DATA_TYPE = 4)
```

I guess it depends on what else is in the file, apart from the data.

Regards,  
Chris

---

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Subject: Re: reading in a long line of data  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 08:14:12 GMT  
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On May 9, 12:15 pm, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Sometimes ReadF seems to stop at the end of a row for me; sometimes it  
> thinks the whole file is one row, even if I can \*see\* the carriage  
> returns in it when I open it in WordPad.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Chris

In retrospect, this should probably read 'Sometimes I use ReadF and  
sometimes I use ReadU, and I shouldn't be surprised that the two don't  
give the same results.' :-D

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