Subject: Re: help automating 'read in process' and general automating help Posted by Jeremy Bailin on Sat, 23 Aug 2008 03:37:28 GMT

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```
On Aug 22, 9:33 pm, mbwel...@gmail.com wrote:
> Hi all,
>
> I need to read in anywhere from 200 to 36000 ascii files and convert
> them into .sav files. I was looking for some help in running a script
> to do this.
>
> I've been using this method (below), but it is far too time consuming
> with this many files.
>
> IDL> table = read_ascii('g:\Mars_tectonics\10deg _analysis
> \a6.txt',template=ascii_template('g:\Mars_tectonics\10deg _analysis
> \a6.txt'))
>
> IDL> help,table,/structure
 ** Structure <1229360>, 3 tags, length=300, data length=300, refs=1:
    FIELD1
                  INT
                          Array[30]
    FIELD2
                  FLOAT
                             Array[30]
>
   FIELD3
                  FLOAT
                            Array[30]
> IDL> a6=fltarr(3,30)
> IDL> a6[0,*]=table.field1
> IDL> a6[1,*]=table.field2
> IDL> a6[2,*]=table.field3
> save,a6,filename='g:\mars_tectonics\10deg _analysis\a6.sav'
>
> They'll mostly be of this format and the naming convention is A-R and
> 1-16 (for this smaller iteration).
> This is important: if no file is found, i need it to create an array
> Eventually, perhaps the end of this week, I'll need to work this
> reading method into my actual computational program, but that's a
> little bit later.
>
> As an aside, does anyone know of a way/program/code that'll automate
> the conversion of dbase files to ASCII? I have a program now that does
> it, but it only does one at a time and adds odd characters that I then
 must go in to manually delete.... Time consuming...
>
> Thanks,
> ~Matt
```

READCOL in the IDL Astronomy User's library might be useful for reading them in. And FILE_SEARCH would also be useful for figuring out if a given file exists or not.

-Jeremy.

Subject: Re: help automating 'read in process' and general automating help Posted by mbweller on Mon, 25 Aug 2008 03:46:58 GMT

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Thanks for the response, I have another question though.

For the

```
IDL> help,table,/structure

** Structure <1229360>, 3 tags, length=300, data length=300, refs=1:
FIELD1 INT Array[*]
FIELD2 FLOAT Array[*]
FIELD3 FLOAT Array[*]
IDL> a6=fltarr(3,*)
```

How might I set it up so that the * in the array automatically becomes placed in the fltarr? i.e. if: array[30] then automatically place 30 into fltarr such that fltarr(3,30).

The table structure is throwing me off.

Thanks, Matt

Subject: Re: help automating 'read in process' and general automating help Posted by Spon on Mon, 25 Aug 2008 10:40:49 GMT

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On Aug 25, 4:46 am, mbwel...@gmail.com wrote:

```
> Thanks for the response, I have another question though.
```

> For the

>

> IDL> help,table,/structure

> ** Structure <1229360>, 3 tags, length=300, data length=300, refs=1:

```
> FIELD1 INT Array[*]
> FIELD2 FLOAT Array[*]
> FIELD3 FLOAT Array[*]
```

```
> IDL> a6=fltarr(3,*)
>
    How might I set it up so that the * in the array automatically becomes
> placed in the fltarr? i.e. if: array[30] then automatically place 30
> into fltarr such that fltarr(3,30).
> The table structure is throwing me off.
>
    Thanks,
> Matt

a6 = Transpose( [ [Table.Field1], [Table.Field2], [Table.Field3] ] )
Search for the array concatenation tutorial on http://www.dfanning.com
Regards,
Chris
```

Subject: Re: help automating 'read in process' and general automating help Posted by Spon on Mon, 25 Aug 2008 11:03:42 GMT

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```
On Aug 25, 11:40 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Aug 25, 4:46 am, mbwel...@gmail.com wrote:
>
>
>
>
   Thanks for the response, I have another question though.
>
>> For the
>> IDL> help,table,/structure
>> ** Structure <1229360>, 3 tags, length=300, data length=300, refs=1:
                           Array[*]
     FIELD1
                   INT
>>
     FIELD2
                   FLOAT
                             Array[*]
>>
     FIELD3
                   FLOAT
                             Array[*]
>>
>> IDL> a6=fltarr(3,*)
>> How might I set it up so that the * in the array automatically becomes
>> placed in the fltarr? i.e. if: array[30] then automatically place 30
>> into fltarr such that fltarr(3,30).
>> The table structure is throwing me off.
>> Thanks,
>> Matt
```

```
    a6 = Transpose( [ [Table.Field1], [Table.Field2], [Table.Field3] ] )
    Search for the array concatenation tutorial onhttp://www.dfanning.com
    Regards,
    Chris- Hide quoted text -
    Show quoted text -
```

I guess the actual answer to your question is that you should be able to get array sizes out of the structure like this: NCols = N_Elements(Table.Field1)

My solution just skips that bit and joins up the structure fields into one array, automatically converting the int column to floats in the process.