
Subject: reading in from multiple files, performing operations and printing them to multiple output file

Posted by [bhattacharjee12](#) on Sun, 17 Nov 2013 08:31:27 GMT

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Hi ,

I have a silly question, I feel

I am trying to run a program where I read in bunch of files, all of which have 2 sets of data and then perform the same mathematical operation on those data from each files and then put them the new values into a different set of files. I have come up with so far with this. I am having a problem in creating and printing the data into new files.

pro read_write

```
;;; will find the input files
```

```
files= FINDFILE('day*')
```

```
numfiles=n_elements(files)
```

```
num=intarr(numfiles)
```

```
;;;creating an array which will have the names of the output files, still havent figured out if this necessary or not
```

```
files_out=FINDFILE('new_day*')
```

```
FOR m=0, numfiles-1 DO BEGIN
```

```
    READCOL, files[m],filename1,filename2,format='F'
```

```
    openw,num[m],files_out,/get_lun ;;;;;;;;;;;might be totally off on this one.
```

```
    ;;;;;;;;;;;random math operation
```

```
    new_data=filename1+2
```

```
    printf,new_data[m],filename[m]
```

```
    close,num[m]
```

```
ENDFOR
```

```
END
```

I am getting an error on this syntax . I can print the outputs onto screen without any problem. So I think way I am going up with the reading and doing the operations is ok.

Thanks for the help & suggestion in advance.

Anirban

Subject: Re: reading in from multiple files, performing operations and printing them to multiple output file

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 17 Nov 2013 15:35:02 GMT

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bhattacharjee12@gmail.com writes:

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> I am trying to run a program where I read in bunch of files, all of which have 2 sets of data and then perform the same mathematical operation on those data from each files and then put them the new values into a different set of files. I have come up with so far with this. I am having a problem in creating and printing the data into new files.

```
>
> pro read_write
>
> ;;; will find the input files
> files= FINDFILE('day*')
>
> numfiles=n_elements(files)
> num=intarr(numfiles)
> ;;;creating an array which will have the names of the output files, still havent figured out if this
necessary or not
> files_out=FINDFILE('new_day*')
> FOR m=0, numfiles-1 DO BEGIN
>   READCOL, files[m],filename1,filename2,format='F'
>
>   openw,num[m],files_out,/get_lun ;;;;;;;;;;might be totally off on this one.
>   ;;;;;;;;;;random math operation
>   new_data=filename1+2
>   printf,new_data[m],filename[m]
>   close,num[m]
> ENDFOR
>
> END
>
> I am getting an error on this syntax . I can print the outputs onto screen without any problem.
So I think way I am going up with the reading and doing the operations is ok.
> Thanks for the help & suggestion in advance.
```

Oh, my goodness! Hard to know where to start here. :-)

Here are some pointers.

1. FINDFILE is an obsolete function for good reason: it returns erroneous results. Use FILE_SEARCH instead.

2. The variable names "filename1" and "filename2" for floating point variables are, uh, really poorly chosen. You will understand your code better if you choose better names for variables.

3. If you choose a file logical unit number with GET_LUN, you will have to not just close it, but free it up so it can be used over again. Use the FREE_LUN command to both close and free it at the same time, not the CLOSE command. If you don't do this you will run out of logical unit numbers sooner or later.

4. Have a look at the on-line help for the PRINTF command. You are missing the arguments you need to successfully write to a file.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: reading in from multiple files, performing operations and printing them to multiple output file

Posted by skymaxwell@gmail.com on Sun, 17 Nov 2013 18:58:51 GMT

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The PRINTF procedure must have destination LUN.

```
printf,new_data[m],filename[m]  
      ^--must be a LUN
```

but you have at previous line
new_data=filename1+2
it doesn't LUN
