
Subject: Re: moving within a file
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Gerhard D. Rappold wrote:

>
> Hello IDL users,
>
> I'm just a beginner of IDL and want to know how I could read an open
> file (or a part of it) several times. If you have opened the file
> (e.g. `StrArr(6, 100)` to read the file you do:
>
> `data = StrArr(6,100)`
> `readf, data`
>
> if you now want to read the 3 columns without starting over and doing the
>
> `Free_lun,`
> `openF, lun, etc.`
> again.
> How can you do it?
>
> thanks
>
> Gerhard

since you are reading in a string array, you can convert this to numbers
by calling

```
READS,data(i),var1,var2,var3,...
```

(or you can download D. Foster's `GET_TOKEN.PRO` from
ftp://bial8.ucsd.edu/pub/software/idl/share/idl_share.tar.gz
)

If you really need to (re)position your file pointer,
 `res = fstat(ilun)` ; get fileinfo structure
 `filepos = res.cur_ptr`

`point_lun,ilun,filepos` ; set file pointer
(filepos must be LONG !)

Martin.

--

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Subject: Re: moving within a file
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Gerhard D. Rappold (rappold@zedat.fu-berlin.de) writes:

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If you just want to "rewind" the file (or go some other place in it), you can use the `POINT_LUN` procedure. For example, if you want to rewind a file to its beginning, you can type this:

```
Point_Lun, lun, 0
```

If what you are asking is how do you read the 3rd column in that 6 by 100 string array, then I would do it like this:

```
col3 = Reform(data[2,*])
```

You can find other tips about reading and writing data in IDL on my web page.

Cheers,

David

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