
Subject: Re: reading ASCII Data

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Tue, 13 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Mirko wrote:

>
> Hello
>
> We have ASCII files (floats) with a different number of lines and
> different number of data in each line. The data was generated by a mass
> spectrometer software under Win 3.11. Each measurement line ends with
> '0D'xb instead of '0A'xb and '0A'xb. Is there a way to find the END OF
> LINE with an IDL function (like EOF) because each line starts with some
> "header information" which has to be skipped before the measured data
> starts.
> How can you handle a variable number of floats?
>
> Cheers
>
> Mirko

A good start would be to use FILE_STRARR.PRO to read the file into an array of strings. This could be parsed fairly easily. I thought it'd be trivial using IDL's STR_SEP(), but you can't get rid of the extra space characters easily (it gets confused when two delimiting characters are next to each-other...dreadful programming!).

Anyways, FILE_STRARR.PRO and FILE_STRARR.DOC are included below.

Dave

--

~~~~~  
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~~~~~

```
; FILE_STRARR.PRO 5-27-94
;
; Routine to read text file and return a STRARR containing
; the lines of text. Returns a STRARR(2) containing the null
; string " and the value of !err_string if an I/O error is encountered
;
; This code adapted from XDISPLAYFILE
```

```
FUNCTION file_strarr, fname  
  
ON_IOERROR, IO_ERROR  
  
openr, unit, fname, /get_lun, error=err  
if (err ne 0) then begin  
  return, ['ERROR', !err_string]  
endif else begin  
  max_lines = 1000  
  a = strarr(max_lines)  
  i = 0  
  c = ""  
  while (not eof(unit)) do begin  
    readf, unit, c  
    a[i] = c  
    i = i + 1  
    if (i eq max_lines - 2) then begin  
      a = [a, strarr(max_lines)]  
      max_lines = max_lines + max_lines  
    endif  
  endwhile  
  a = a[0:i-1]  
  free_lun, unit  
  return, a  
endelse
```

```
IO_ERROR:  
  message, 'Error reading file: ' + fname, /continue  
  print, !err_string  
  return, ['ERROR', !err_string]
```

```
END
```

FILE_STRARR

Use this routine to read a text file and return a STRARR variable containing the lines of text. This is useful when displaying text-files in text widgets. If an I/O error such as file-not-found occurs then returns a STRARR(2) containing the string 'ERROR' and the value of the IDL system variable !ERR_STRING.

Calling Sequence

Text = FILE_STRARR(Filename)

Arguments

Filename

The name of the file containing the text you wish to return as a STRARR.

Outputs

Returns the lines of text from the file as a STRARR variable. If an I/O error occurs then this will contain two elements: the string 'ERROR' and the value of the IDL system variable !ERR_STRING when the error occurred.

Example

```
; Locate an IDL program file  
Ret = FIND_PROCEDURE('mrsegreg.pro',Filename)  
  
; Put this file into a STRARR  
  
Text = FILE_STRARR(Filename)  
  
if (Text(0) eq 'ERROR' and $  
    n_elements(Text) eq 2) then  
    message, 'Error reading file ' + Filename
```

File Attachments

- 1) [file_strarr.pro](#), downloaded 68 times
 - 2) [file_strarr.doc](#), downloaded 67 times
-

Subject: Re: reading ASCII Data

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 13 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Mirko wrote:

> Was in a hurry this mornig an missed to put an example on.
> 1 08.04.1999 15:27:12:40 11.04 1.05722E-007 2.14 9.9E-009 16.05
> 3.59375E-009 28.02 4.20938E-009 44.03 1.2875E-009
> 2 08.04.1999 15:27:21:60 20.6 1.07047E-007 2.19 1.04469E-008 16.05
> 3.66875E-009 17.06 1.89781E-008 18.09 6.69937E-008 28.02
> 4.11563E-009 31.94 1.49062E-009 43.97 1.35312E-009

```
> 3    08.04.1999   15:27:30:44   29.44  1.14278E-007 ... and so on for the next  
> 700 ranges  
>  
> Any suggestions?  
>  
> Cheers
```

```
file='test.dat'  
IF file_exist(file) THEN A = fileline('test.dat')
```

R.Bauer

```
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; sold and this copyright notice is reproduced on each copy made. This  
; routine is provided as is without any express or implied warranties  
; whatsoever.  
;  
;  
;+  
; NAME:  
;   file_exist  
;  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
;   The result of this function is 1 if a file exist and 0 if not  
;  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
;   DATAFILES  
;  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
;   Result=file_exist(file_name)  
;  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;   file_name: The name of the File  
;  
;  
; OUTPUTS:  
;   This function returns 1 if the file exist and 0 if not  
;  
;  
; EXAMPLE:  
;   result=file_exist('otto.nc')  
;  
;  
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
```

```
; Written by: R.Bauer (ICG-1), 1998-May-18
```

```
;-
```

```
FUNCTION file_exist,file_name
```

```
if n_params() Lt 1 then begin
```

```
    help,call=call
```

```
    help_of_interest=within_brackets(call[0],brackets=['<','('])
```

```
    message,help_calling_sequence(help_of_interest),/cont
```

```
    return,-1
```

```
endif
```

```
OPENR,lun,file_name,err=err,/GET_LUN
```

```
IF n_elements(lun) GT 0 THEN FREE_LUN,lun
```

```
IF err NE 0 THEN RETURN,0 ELSE RETURN,1
```

```
END
```

```
;
```

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```

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```
; routine is provided as is without any express or implied warranties
```

```
; whatsoever.
```

```
;
```

```
;
```

```
; NAME:
```

```
; fileline
```

```
;
```

```
; PURPOSE:
```

```
; This function returns the number of lines of an ascii file
```

```
;
```

```
; CATEGORY:
```

```
; DATAFILES/FILE
```

```
;
```

```
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
```

```
; Result=fileline(file_name)
```

```
;
```

```
; INPUTS:
```

```
; file_name: the name of an ascii file
```

```

;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
; bytarr: optional output
;
; EXAMPLE:
;   Result=fileline('test.asc')
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   Written by: R.Bauer (ICG-1), Oct. 1996
;   R.Bauer 1998-11-10 added opt output bytarr
;-

```

FUNCTION fileline, filename,BYTARR=lesefeld

```

IF N_PARAMS() LT 1 THEN BEGIN
  HELP:HELP,call=call
  help_of_interest=within_brackets(call[0],brackets=['<', '('])
  MESSAGE,help_calling_sequence(help_of_interest),/cont
  RETURN,-1
  help_open: MESSAGE, 'File: '+filename+' NOT found',/cont
  RETURN,-1
  help_size: MESSAGE,'File: '+filename+' has a SIZE OF 0 bytes',/cont
  RETURN,-1
ENDIF
byt=filesize(filename)
IF byt EQ 0 THEN GOTO,help_size

IF byt EQ -1 THEN GOTO, help_open

lesefeld=BYTARR(byt)

OPENR,lun,filename,/GET_LUN,error=err
IF err NE 0 THEN GOTO, help_open
READU,lun,lesefeld

FREE_LUN,lun
IF lesefeld(byt-1) NE 10b THEN lesefeld=[lesefeld,10b]
line=WHERE(lesefeld EQ 10B,count_line)

RETURN,count_line

END

```

```
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; sold and this copyright notice is reproduced on each copy made. This  
; routine is provided as is without any express or implied warranties  
; whatsoever.  
;+  
; NAME:  
; filesize  
;  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
;   The result of this function is the bytelength of an ascii file  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
;   DATAFILES/FILE  
;  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
;   Result=filesize(file_name)  
;  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;   file_name: the name of an ascii file  
;  
;  
; OUTPUTS:  
; This function returns the number of bytes of an ascii file  
;  
;  
; EXAMPLE:  
;   Result=filesize('test.asc')  
;  
;  
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:  
;   Written by: R.Bauer (ICG-1), Oct. 1996  
;-
```

FUNCTION filesize, filename

```
if n_params() lt 1 then begin  
    help:help,call=call  
    help_of_interest=within_brackets(call[0],brackets=['<', '('])  
    message,help_calling_sequence(help_of_interest),/cont  
    return,-1  
    help_open: message, 'File: '+filename+' not found',/cont  
    return,-1  
endif
```

```
OPENR, lun, filename, /GET_LUN,error=err  
IF err NE 0 THEN GOTO, help_open  
stats = FSTAT(lun)  
FREE_LUN, lun
```

```
RETURN, stats.size  
END
```

File Attachments

- 1) [file_exist.pro](#), downloaded 66 times
 - 2) [fileline.pro](#), downloaded 58 times
 - 3) [filesize.pro](#), downloaded 63 times
-

Subject: Re: reading ASCII Data

Posted by [Mirko](#) on Tue, 13 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Any suggestions?

Cheers
