
Subject: Re: reading long ascii records

Posted by [wolff](#) on Sat, 30 Oct 1993 13:40:13 GMT

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In Article <1993Oct27.203017.14297@ncar.ucar.edu>, rob@hao.ucar.edu (Rob Montgomery) wrote:

> In article <GEOMAGIC.93Oct23123353@moe.seismo.do.usbr.gov>
geomagic@seismo.do.usbr.gov (Dan O-Connell) writes:

>> In article <2a9cdr\$5p8@skates.gsfc.nasa.gov> fisher@echo.gsfc.nasa.gov (Brad L. Fisher) writes:

>>> I am trying to read an ascii file in idl which has some 1428+ words

>>> (4 bytes/word) per record. When I do this with readf I receive an error:

>>> Input line is too long for input buffer of 2048 characters. Is there any

>>> simple way to read this file in IDL without reformatting it.

>

> It is often painless and sufficient to reformat with the Unix 'fold'

> command, which you may do in a SPAWN, if desired. (I don't know if

> you are using Unix...)

>

>> What version of IDL are you using? This ones been around a long time.

>> This has to be just about the most stupid limitation I've ever

>> encountered in IDL and PV-WAVE. I can't believe they wouldn't [have]

>> fixed it by now.

>

> I am surprised the limitation exists, considering how easy it might be

> to "fix"; however, I consider that to be one of the *most reasonable*

> limitations. In our environment there is generally no reason to create

> such files: we are not forced into using ASCII for compatibility reasons

> (e.g., can use IEEE f.p., "BYTEORDER", "SAVE [./XDR]", etc.), thus the

> main reason to choose ASCII is to be able to use tools like text editors

> on the files, and for that use it's best to have reasonably short lines

> (i.e., optimally 79 characters or less if you want to be nice to all

> terminal emulators). Only twice have I seen cases here where people

> needed to fold their data.

>

> Environments and needs vary, of course... :-)

>

> -Rob

>

I have to disagree with your statement that there is generally no reason
to create such files. In the field, the data is often kept on

IBMs (ugggh) a

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