Subject: Re: ASCII data with 5000 columns
Posted by Vapuser on Thu, 11 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

"R.Bauer" <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:

> Hi,
>
> how to read an ASCII datafile with 5000 data coloumns.
> The length of each line is about 56400 characters or longer.
>
> reads, readf don't work because the max stringlenth is exceeded.
>
> The only way I know to read is readu.
> I separate the numbers in the byte array convert them to string and at
> last to
> float.
>
> It's a bit unbelievable that's idl is able to handle more than 2 Giga
> Byte but
> only if they are organized by lines and a few columns.
>
>
>
> Any further ideas?

Um... I'm a bit confused. Is this file coming from some external source over which you have no control? If not, then why would you write out an ascii file with so many columns? To me this defeats the purpose of writing ascii, which I would characterise as ease of viewing your data with a simple 'cat' or 'more' or 'type' or whatever ascii file viewer you want. I'd consider writing binary, since you're not getting that particular benefit this particular type of data file.

Can you actually view these files in some ascii viewer? I jerry rigged one up with a line length of 64K and even venerable 'vi' complained about the line length!

If it comes from some outside source over which you have no control, then forget everything I just wrote. ;->

Now that I think of it, it must be, since I can't think of a way to write a line this long out in IDL without converting it to a byte array and using writeu.

This must be some implied do-loop in fortran, right? If so, I'd get them to change the fortran source to write a more user friendly file.

whd