
Subject: Re: ASCII data with 5000 columns

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Thu, 11 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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R.Bauer wrote:

>
> 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 stringlength 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 rows and a few columns.
>
> R.Bauer

Hallo Reimar,

maybe you can use string arrays and the format statement? Here's an example:

```
a=replicate('*',62000L)
b=string(a,format='(32000A1)')
```

will give you a two-element string array.

Even better of course to have a formatted file where you can assign the format statement to individual tags (e.g. 5000A8)

```
try: c=strarr(5000)
     readf,ilun,c,format='(5000A8)'
```

Hoffe, das hilft,
Viele Gruesse,
Martin.

--

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