
Subject: Re: reading files with date- and time - columns
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 26 Feb 2001 19:14:48 GMT
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"Zeschke" <zeschke@bessy.de> writes:

```
> Hallo,
>
> I have files for example in such a format:
>
> File : s.log
> ;DATE      TIME      n x VALUES
> 23.01.2001 08:39:41 21 21.4 0
> 23.01.2001 08:40:16 21 21.3 0
> 23.01.2001 08:40:51 21 21.3 0
> 23.01.2001 08:41:26 21 21.4 0
>
> or such a format:
>
> ;DATE      TIME      n x VALUES
> 2/23/2001  08:39:41.643 34.660
> 2/23/2001  08:49:41.456 34.960
```

There are tons of ways to do this in IDL. In principle the best way to do this is read the data with a structure. This is what my TRANSREAD does internally. Here is how I would do it, first initializing the data, and then reading it.

```
mm = 0 & dd = 0 & yyyy = 0 & hh = 0 & mi = 0 & ss = 0 & nn = 0 & x = 0. & i = 0
openr, unit, 'myfile.dat'
transread, data, mm, dd, yyyy, hh, mi, ss, nn, x, i, comment=';', /debug, $
  format='(I2,1X,I2,1X,I4,1X,I2,1X,I2,1X,I0,1X,F0,1X,I0) '
;      mm . dd . yy  hh : mi : ss  nn  val zero
```

I've never had much success using explicit quoted style format codes for *reading* data, so I tend to use the "X" code instead for skipping dead characters. The use of the /DEBUG keyword is crucial for the initial phases to be sure your format code is working.

After you get this, then there is the (trivial) matter of assembling the component data into a single date, presumably with CALDATE, etc.

Craig

TRANSREAD found at <http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

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Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
