
Subject: plotting free form ascii data

Posted by [patrick](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2001 21:11:03 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Greetings-

I'm attempting to write a gui script to plot free form ascii data.
I've utilized the `ascii_template` and `read_ascii` functions but the
program hangs after hitting finished on the `ascii_template` gui and
returns an error:

```
% READ_ASCII: File name must be a string.  
% Execution halted at: READ_ASCII      792  
/auto/soft/idl/idl_5.4/lib/read_ascii.pro  
%          PLOTINTERACTIVE_READ  31  
/home/swifs/training/idlinterm/interplot2.pro  
%          XMANAGER_EVLOOP_STANDARD 478  
/auto/soft/idl/idl_5.4/lib/xmanager.pro  
%          XMANAGER      708  
/auto/soft/idl/idl_5.4/lib/xmanager.pro  
%          PLOTINTERACTIVE  209  
/home/swifs/training/idlinterm/interplot2.pro  
%          $MAIN$
```

I'm using a variable name `xdata`, very simple and yes, a string. What
gives?

Also, I'm curious as to the best way to pass this to the `PLOT`
function?

Any suggestions welcome,

Patrick
