
Subject: data type determination in a file
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 21 Oct 2001 16:07:47 GMT
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Hi my friends,

I like to add some more functionality to my `read_data_file` routine.
This routine is much faster as `read_ascii` and it determines itselfs
the file architecture of header, comments, arrayed data (columns,lines),
separator and trailer comments.

The template for `read_ascii` uses fixed sizes of comments and columns.
Less comments in an other file means the first datalines are missing.
You will
find them in the header or you have to change the `datastart` val every
time.
Because of an execute statement in `read_ascii` it could not be used in
runtime.

While `read_ascii` is line dependet and the user gives the delimiter of
the columns
and the type of each column this routine is able to read string data
as well as number data from a string line.
With `FIX` and the type identifier given from the user it translates the
column fields
to the right type (nice feature of `FIX`).

Because of the `READS` statement I am using to read the data array
at once from a string array I see no chance at the moment to
mix strings and numbers. (It is possible to remove some of the string
characters
e.g. `remove_char= ':'` then `12:10:00` gives three columns)

I like to add to `read_data_file` a struct array of type dependent tags.
Therefore I like to determine the type of data of each column of the
ASCII file.
(Struct arrays could be shown by `widget_table` type dependent too.)

If the data holds only numbers it is very easy to change from data array
to struct array. But in addition I like to return each tag in it's
necessary
data type without any user information.
(Perhaps it could be overwritten by the user)

Is a routine already available which determines from a double number
which type
is really necessary?

Or did someone has an idea how to determine types from an ASCII file
,string or byte array ?

regards

Reimar

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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read something about linux / windows

<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>