Subject: Help! G4 problem reading ascii data Posted by David on Mon, 06 Oct 2003 14:35:12 GMT

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Hi all,

I am quite new to IDL and I am having what appears to be a serious problem with IDL on a G4 Mac. I could really use some help. I read the thread about the known G4 problem and it is not clear to me whether this problem is related or not. I hope I am doing something stupid and someone can point this out to me, but the code is very simple and I am stumped.

I am running IDL 6.0 on a Mac G4 running 10.2.6.

The problem is that when I read ascii data from a file that has more than 2 columns, the data does not read properly in columns beyond 1 and 2. The data is fine up to array item 255, but after that I get random integer data. This sounds somewhat similar to the G4 problem discussed earlier so I am wondering if it is the same issue and what I can do about it.

Here is the code that I am using:

```
datatemplate=ascii_template( '~jacksond/testdata.txt')
data=read_ascii(filepath('testdata.txt',root_dir='~jacksond' ),template=datat
emplate)
for i=250,260 do begin
    print, data.field1[i], data.field2[i], data.field3[i], data.field4[i]
endfor
END
```

I have included the data file that I am using. It is simple 4 columns of tab delimited floating point data with 512 entries. During the ascii_template command, I choose "fixed width" on step one and the defaults for everything else. The output of this program looks like the following:

```
-0.996365
           0.0734110
                       2.00308
                                0.0737210
-0.997232
           0.0611700
                       2.00226
                                0.0614770
-0.997951
           0.0489190
                       2.00159
                                0.0492240
                                0.0369630
-0.998521
           0.0366610
                       2.00107
-0.998941
           0.0243960
                       2.00070
                                0.0246970
          0.0121280
                       2.00048
                                0.0124270
-0.999212
-0.999334 -0.000140000
                        3.00000
                                   4.00000
-0.999306 -0.0124100
                       5.00000
                                  6.00000
-0.999128 -0.0246800
                       6.00000
                                  9.00000
-0.998800 -0.0369500
                       3.00000
                                  1.00000
-0.998322 -0.0492100
                       5.00000
                                  4.00000
```

while the output of the command head -n 260 testdata.txt | tail -n 10

```
-0.996365 0.073411 2.003076 0.073721
-0.997232  0.061170  2.002258  0.061477
-0.997951 0.048919 2.001589 0.049224
-0.998521 0.036661 2.001069 0.036963
-0.998941 0.024396 2.000701 0.024697
-0.999212 0.012128 2.000482 0.012427
-0.999334 -0.000143 2.000414 0.000155
-0.999306 -0.012415 2.000496 -0.012116
-0.999128 -0.024686 2.000729 -0.024386
-0.998800 -0.036953 2.001111 -0.036652
```

As you can see, the IDL data in columns 3 and 4 "go bad" at array element 256. In fact, I just noticed that in column 2, the data beginning ast element 256 is no longer exactly the same as the original. Weird.

I'd appreciate any help/advice I can get on this problem.

David

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