
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=datatemplate)
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
-0.998521  0.0366610  2.00107  0.0369630
-0.998941  0.0243960  2.00070  0.0246970
-0.999212  0.0121280  2.00048  0.0124270
-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 at 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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