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Subject: read data from several files

Posted by [Dennis Lamenti](#) on Wed, 26 Nov 2003 05:50:35 GMT

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Hi,

New to using IDL and I am plotting and comparing magnitudes of stars over several days.

For each image there is a photometry file created with data for stars located.

Can anyone suggest how to have IDL read from several files and extract only data necessary and then plot this data that it extracts?

For example, in four separate files (text files) each file has 8 columns and 300 lines. In the first file, the star is in the 67th line and the magnitudes are in the 6th and 7th column (the columns will always be the same). In the next file the star (same star) is in the 169th line...the star could be in any line, but I want to match up the magnitudes of 6th and 7th columns (columns for that data are always in 6th and 7th column). I want to have IDL grab only data for that star in each of the four files, do some calculation with it and plot it and then go to another star and doing the same thing. The star location in the file is random, but the columns of that info remain the same.

I assume that I will have to search for string match for the star names in each file and then do 'readcol', but that is all I know.

Any help would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Dennis Lamenti

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