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Subject: Re: IDL string input HELP!!

Posted by [btt](#) on Wed, 14 Jul 2004 16:59:13 GMT

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RichW wrote:

> I have a IDL program that reads in ASCII data and is to plot 2 columns of  
> the 8 that are in the file. Right now, I am using makeplot & read\_ascii in  
> my code, which is fine except when it wants to read in the times - which  
> are given in the form HH:MM:SS.MS. When IDL outputs the ASCII data in a  
> terminal window, the time will come up as HH.0000, which is not good. It  
> was recommend to me to read in the date as a string, but I didn't work. I  
> am sure I messed it up. Any help or suggestions would be appreciated. Here  
> is the code that I have so far:

```
>  
> PRO makeplot, ac_ho_mfi_86586_revised  
>   a = read_ascii(ac_ho_mfi_86586_revised)  
>   print, a.field1  
>   x = a.field1(1, *)  
>   y = a.field1(3, *)  
>   plot, x, y, psym = 4  
>  
> end  
>
```

Hi,

I suggest that you look at the ASCII\_TEMPLATE function to define your data file.

Assign 'string' to the timestamp column. Once you read in the data using the template, you will have to transform HH:MM:SS to a numerical value - search with GOOGLE on this newsgroup for time transformations.

Ben

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