Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 19:14:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Tyler writes:

>

> I hope someone can help me out here. First off, I am an IDL virgin,

Oooh, a... Oh, never mind. :-(

- > and making my first plots as of today...So I apologize if my question
- > is trivial, but there doesn;t seem to be an answer posted for the
- > compliation error i get.

> Presently, I am trying to contour up some data [x,y,z] and have it

> stored in an ASCII file xyz.dat.

I am intend to use the READCOL function to open and read the data, but

- > I can't seem to compile the READCOL program. (I assumed I have to
- > compile READCOL first before i can call it in my own procedure.)
- Anyways, I get the following error:
- ======== SNIP
- _____
- [thayes@somemachine ~virIDL]\$ idl
- IDL Version 6.0 (linux x86 m32). (c) 2003, Research Systems, Inc.
- IDL> .compile READCOL

tst = strnumber(var[i],val,hex=hex[i]) :Valid >

> number?

>

>

> % Syntax error.

- At: /home/thayes/virIDL/READCOL.pro, Line 244
- > % 1 Compilation error(s) in module READCOL.
- > IDL>

- > I have absolutely NO IDEA what is wrong here....Have I downloaded the
- > wrong version? The one I have was last modified in May 2002.

No, you have the right version. But you don't have all the programs you need. Look at the header to READCOL and you will find a section entitled "Procedures Called". You will need all those other routines, too. In fact, just go download the whole NASA Astronomy library. You could do

a LOT worse and you will probably learn something by reading some well-written code!

http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/homepage.html

> Cheers and thanks in advance for any help or advice you may have.

Get a good book. There are a couple. :-)

- > PS My actual procedure to create the contoured data set, which calls
- > READCOL is also given at the end of the posting. Any suggestions are
- > greatly appreciated!

Uh, well. We don't normally use the PostScript device as a display device. (Actually, this seems to be common in astronomy. Are you an astronomer?) Most of us look at plots on the computer display. Then, when we see something we like, we make a PostScript file of it. You will get the hang of it soon. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/