
Subject: Re: Read_ASCII and 'invalid' ascii files

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Fri, 10 Dec 2004 19:15:10 GMT

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Jaden wrote:

> Hi Everyone,

>

> I have been using IDL's read_ascii function to read in data files
> using a template. The only problem is that all the source files have a
> +/- symbol in the header, and IDL reports that these files are not
> valid ascii files, when they clearly are. When I open with a text
> editor, and remove the suspect character, the function runs perfectly.
> Any suggestions?

>

> Jaden

I think the ASCII code defines only 128 characters (7 bit). The +/- sign is part of an "extended" ASCII code, which makes use of the 8th bit but is not strictly defined.

Benjamin
