Subject: Problems reading ASCII data
Posted by rats on Thu, 16 Dec 2004 17:58:10 GMT

I am trying to read in some large ASCII files. I would like to put
these columns into an array, but I am having a problem with the the 5th
column (e.g. 1/1). IDL changes this to 1.00, when I want it to be a
string "1/1" and the other ones to be formatted as double/integer.

This works well using IDL's read_ascii program, but the headers have a
+/- character that makes it 'not a valid ascii file' according to IDL.

Below is a sample of the data file.

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X |Y |Z |I |Ret#|D±|Ed|Cla|Ang|Time

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444997.54, 5384000.40, 278.55, 169, 1/1, 0, 0, 2, 0, 588531.995800

444999.16, 5384001.00, 278.38, 183, 1/1, 0, 0, 2, 0, 588531.995800

444997.81, 5384000.48, 294.75, 000, 1/2, 0, 0, 1, 0, 588531.996000

Is there a quick way to read these data into an array, where it will
ignore the header and each column has its own data format?