Subject: Re: readcol problems
Posted by Haje Korth on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 12:27:28 GMT
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Alright, let me explain a little more. the routine i wrote above is
just the read routine for the data, i.e., an alternative to readcol.
There are a million ways to do the job. I prefer the one in my example.
it uses structures (that's what the "." is indicating), whioch makes it
look more complex, but it really isn't. The advantage is that you can
keep all properties of one data point neatly together with accessing
separate arrays like x and y and z, etc. Everything in my example will
be in one structure array called data, which happens to only contain
two coordinates x and y in this case.

```
pro readfile,fname,data
  ndat=file_lines(fname)
  data_struct={x:0.0,y:0.0}
  data=replicate(data_struct,ndat)
  openr,runit,fname,/get_lun
  readf,runit,data
  close,runit
  free_lun,runit
return
end
```

What was missing in my example is the driver routine, which can look as
simple as this:

```
pro test
  fname='testdata.txt'    ; this should be the name of your data file
  readfile, fname, data   ; this calls the read routine to read
testdata.txt
  plot,data.x,data.y      ; this plots the data passed back by
readfile
return
end
```

Hope this was more clear. Looks like you have some catching up to do.
For this I recommend David Fannings Book "IDL Programming Techniques",
which helps you get up to speed with hands-on examples.

Cheers,
Haje

Amanda wrote:
> I tried that code and really don't have a clue how to use it.
>
> And I downloaded those other 2 programs but I keep getting the same
> errors on my original code.
>
>
> Haje Korth wrote:
>> IMHO, the readcol rotuines sound like complete overkill to me. If you
>> stick with the few lines I wrote above you'll be done in 5 minutes!
>>
>>
