
Subject: Re: Reading and Plotting big txt. File
Posted by [Conor](#) on Wed, 01 Aug 2007 12:58:21 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Aug 1, 5:33 am, "incognito.me" <incognito...@gmh.de> wrote:

```
> I'm trying to read and plot (surface) a very big text (.txt) file
> (1020, 1024) with a 5 line string Header in IDL. My file looks like a
> circle made of numbers!!!. That means in some lines and columns there
> are no numbers only blanks!!!for example my file contains integers
> between rows 633 and 390 and between columns 650 and 406.At the left
> side of the file, there are the numbers of rows (1023,1022,1021,...,0)
> my code should not read, but it does. And I also notice, that my code
> don't begin to read where the data starts!!By running the code I have
> the following error message: READF: End of file encountered. Unit: 1.
> Can someone help me?
> This is how my code looks like
> pro readfile, filename
>
> ; file=strupcase(filename)
> rows=file_lines(file)
> ;open the file and read the five line header.
>   openr,1,file
>   header=strarr(5)
>   readf,1,header
> ; Find the number of columns in the file
>   cols=fix(strmid(header(3),14,4))
> ; Number of rows of the data
>   rows_data=rows-n_elements(header)
>
> ;Create a big array to hold the data
>   data=intarr (cols, rows_data)
> ; All blanks should be replaced by zero
>   data[where(data eq ' ')] = 0
> ; A small array to read a line
>   s=intarr(cols)
>   n=0
>   while (~ eof(1) and (n lt rows_data -1 )) do begin
>     ; Read a line of data
>     readf,1,s
>     ; Store it in data
>     data[*,n]=s
>     n=n+1
>   end
>   data=data[*,0:n-1]
>
>   CLOSE,1
>   Shade_surf, data
> end
```

```
>  
> thanks  
>  
> incognito
```

Really, I would second Peter's suggestion. You should find some way to pre-process the file, specifically, so that there is the same number of columns in each row. If you replace all the blank columns with zero columns, then IDL will no longer have trouble reading your file. I assume that is what you were trying to do with the line 'data[where(data eq ' ')] = 0', except that you hadn't read any data yet (and it wouldn't have worked anyway). For instance, if you had:

```
24 85 36 42  
32    16
```

and you replaced all blanks with zeroes, you'd get:

```
24085036042  
32000000016
```

which clearly isn't what you want. You want this:

```
24 85 36 42  
32 00 00 16
```

which is unfortunately not so simple.
