
Subject: Re: problem with plot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 13 Nov 2007 17:01:48 GMT
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Allan Whiteford writes:

```
> I'd prefer:  
>  
> pro test  
>   plot,((_=read_ascii("F:\test.txt"))).(0)[0,*],_.(0)[1,*]  
> end  
>  
> but I'm not paid by the number of lines of code I write :).  
>  
> In all seriousness, though, is there a reason to avoid read_ascii for  
> things like this or were you just trying to use as much of the original  
> structure as possible?
```

I was really trying to use this as a teachable moment for the "IDL Way". :-)

READ_ASCII is great if you have 10 or 100 rows of data. It is slow, slow, slow if you have a LOT of rows. This is because it, by necessity, has to use the line by line data reading method.

Plus, it so damn inelegant (IMHO) I've never used it, so I just never think about it as a solution. :-)

Cheers,

David

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