
Subject: READ_ASCII broken in IDL 5.3

Posted by [Ed Santiago](#) on Mon, 31 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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The 5.3 version of READ_ASCII no longer works with multi-line elements.

The problem is caused by ra_parse_d_values, which starts filling in values at position zero for each new line.

Enclosed is a patch that demonstrates a possible fix for the problem, although it may not be the best solution. I've forwarded a copy to RSI, and trust that they'll implement this or an equivalent fix.

Also enclosed are a sample data file and IDL procedure that demonstrate the problem. The procedure runs under IDL 5.2, and under IDL 5.3 with my fix. It barfs under IDL 5.3 with its stock READ_ASCII.

Enjoy,

^E

-----patch-for-read_ascii.pro-----

--- read_ascii.pro~1~ Mon Jan 31 13:36:39 2000

+++ read_ascii.pro Mon Jan 31 13:49:29 2000

@@ -466,7 +466,7 @@

```

;
for i=0, lines_per_record-1 do begin
    ra_parse_d_values, lines[i], $
-    types[anchor:anchor+num_fields[i]-1], p_vals, rec_count, $
+    types[anchor:anchor+num_fields[i]-1], p_vals[anchor:anchor+num_fields[i]-1], rec_count,
$
    delim_str, template.missingValue, whitespace_delimited
    anchor = anchor + num_fields[i]
endfor
```

-----foo.pro-----

PRO foo

t = { FOO_TEMPLATE, \$; Structure name

version:1.0, \$

DataStart:0L, \$; Start at line 0

Delimiter:32B, \$; Separated by spaces

MissingValue:!Values.F_NaN, \$

CommentSymbol:", \$

FieldCount:[8L,1], \$; 9 fields (on 2 lines)

FieldTypes:IntArray(9) + 3, \$; ...most of them float

```
FieldNames:StrArr(9), $
FieldLocations:LonArr(9), $
FieldGroups:IndGen(9) } ; Don't group any fields
```

```
; Hardcode the field names
t.FieldName = string(format('field',1:2),IndGen(9))
```

```
d = read_ascii('foo.dat', template=t)
FOR i=0,8 DO BEGIN
    tmp = where(d.(i) NE i+1, c)
    IF c NE 0 THEN MESSAGE, 'Foo'
ENDFOR
END
```

[illegible]

--

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