Subject: Re: Processing ascii data (Heeeeelp!!)
Posted by davidf on Sun, 03 Jun 2001 23:33:59 GMT
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R.Aspey (raspey@liv.ac.uk) writes:

> Firstly, thanks to those persons kind enough to repond to my previous post
> the comments were very useful.
>
> Basically I am reading a comma separated ascii file. It has 11 columns and
> 1800 rows. (for this example)
>
> I have tried the function read ascii. An example of the code I tried to
> get working is as follows:
>
> data=fltarr[11, 1900] ;; order of column/rows may be wrong here!
>
> The matrix row/column order may be wrong (cant at the moment remember)
> I then go on to read the data in
>
> data=read_ascii('c:\robin.csv', DATA_START=2, delimiter=',');
>
> Well anyway, when I try to display the contents of the array
> which appeared to have been read in using
>
> print, data
>
> It appears that routine has only read in the first column. I may be wrong
> but how come MATLAB does this with rediculous ease and IDL is
> some sort of programmers nightmare. Why dont these people get together
> and make one product people could really use. It annoys me immensely.
> The documentation for IDL really does not help very much at all.
> Sad when all I want to do is plot a few graphs and I have to waste a
> weekend on this. Someone really should tell them (RSI I mean)
>
> Kind persons comments with suggestions for a simple solution would be
> very much welcome!!

I've never used READ_ASCII before, so I can't help you
there. (It has always appeared brain-dead to me.) But
an 11 by 1800 comma-separated ASCII file is pretty easy:

```
data = FltArr(11, 1800)
OpenR, lun, 'myfile.dat', /Get_Lun
ReadF, lun, data
Free_Lun, lun
```

Even Matlab can't be too much simpler than that.

If you want, say, the fourth column, extract it like
this:

```
  col4 = Reform(data[3,*])
```

> P.S. Why doesnt EXCEL produce EPS files. I suppose life would be too easy
> then.

EPS is not a Microsoft product. :-)

Cheers,

David
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