
Subject: Processing ascii data (Heeeelp!!)
Posted by [R.Aspey](#) on Sun, 03 Jun 2001 23:08:05 GMT
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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!!

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