Subject: template for READ_ASCII
Posted by Bob Fugate on Mon, 25 Jun 2001 01:26:09 GMT

Greetings all,
I am a newbie so bear with me.

I want to read csv text files all having the same size and format but with elements having different numerical values. Each row is composed of 5 numbers, longs and floats, arranged in columns such that each column has numbers of the same format. Each file has the same number of rows.

If I create a template with ASCII_TEMPLATE and apply READ_ASCII, it works great. I can do this from the command line or from a procedure. When the procedure reaches the ASCII_TEMPLATE call, it puts up the GUI with its subsequent pages and the program continues fine after I select the "next" and "finish" buttons.

My question is, can I save the template somehow so I don't have to regenerate it with ASCII_TEMPLATE each time I restart IDL and want to read new tables? I realize I only have to run ASCII_TEMPLATE once each session but I would like to make this completely automatic and so I don't have to manually go through the GUI each day. It is not a really big deal but I am getting greedy.

Thanks for any help or suggested better approaches.

Bob Fugate

Subject: Re: template for READ_ASCII
Posted by Alex Schuster on Mon, 25 Jun 2001 10:44:55 GMT

Bob Fugate wrote:

> My question is, can I save the template somehow so I don't have to
> regenerate it with ASCII_TEMPLATE each time I restart IDL and want to read
> new tables? I realize I only have to run ASCII_TEMPLATE once each session
> but I would like to make this completely automatic and so I don't have to
> manually go through the GUI each day. It is not a really big deal but I am
> getting greedy.

There is the SAVE method already mentioned in this thread, but another possibility would be the creation of the template in your program like I just did in one of mine:

template = { $

```
 version : 1.0, $
 datastart : 9, $
 delimiter : 32B, $
 missingvalue : !values.f_nan, $
 commentsymbol : '', $
 fieldcount : 8L, $
 fieldtypes : [ 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4 ], $
 fieldnames : [ 'time', 'xyz', 'field3', 'field4', $
   'field5', 'field6', 'field7', 'winkel' ], $
 fieldlocations : [ 0, 3, 8, 14, 22, 27, 33, 40 ], $
 fieldgroups : [ 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 7 ] }
```

Just do a HELP, mytemplate, /STRUCT, and you will see what kind of
struct the template is. There is nothing wrong with using SAVE and
RESTORE, but sometimes I like to avoid extra files and prefer a single
one.

　　　Alex

--
 Alex Schuster　　Wonko@planet-interkom.de
　　　　　　alex@pet.mpin-koeln.mpg.de

Subject: Re: template for READ_ASCII
Posted by m.hadfield on Mon, 25 Jun 2001 22:26:34 GMT
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From: "Alex Schuster" <Wonko@planet-interkom.de>
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> fieldcount : 8L, $
> fieldtypes : [3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4], $
> fieldnames : ['time', 'xyz', 'field3', 'field4', $
> 'field5', 'field6', 'field7', 'winkel'], $
> fieldlocations : [0, 3, 8, 14, 22, 27, 33, 40], $
> fieldgroups : [0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 7] }

Good point, Alex. I considered this some time ago but decided that I
couldn't be bothered decoding the format of the template structures. I guess
they're not too bad if you write them out carefully. Your example will go

into my personal repository of useful IDL tips.

Mark Hadfield
m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

Subject: Re: template for READ_ASCII
Posted by Bob Fugate on Tue, 26 Jun 2001 01:52:32 GMT
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Alex,
This is great. It is the first time I have seen a simple example of how a
structure is constructed. My template is so simple, I really like this
approach. I now have 2 solutions. Great!! Thanks again.

Bob

> From: Alex Schuster <Wonko@planet-interkom.de>
> Organization: Der Alex
> Newsgroups: comp.lang.idl-pvwave
> Date: Mon, 25 Jun 2001 12:44:55 +0200
> Subject: Re: template for READ_ASCII
>
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>
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> Alex
> --
> Alex Schuster   Wonko@planet-interkom.de
> alex@pet.mpin-koeln.mpg.de