Subject: Re: importing ascii files

Posted by R.Bauer on Thu, 11 Jul 2002 21:51:54 GMT

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## Heather wrote:

>

- > We have a program written in IDL that extracts data and puts it into a
- > text file. We want to put the columns of the text file into some kind
- > of storage device so that we can access the columns separately in
- > another IDL program. We are trying to write a program that
- > incorporates the import\_ascii macro, but are open to any other ideas
- > at this point.

>

> Heather

Dear Heather,

import\_ascii will be very slow by large arrays because it reads not the whole data as an array.

And if you later like to use it by runtime it won't work because the structure is defined by execute.

Before read\_ascii was developed by RSI I have written a full automatic data reader.

It founds itselfs where comments and data are.

It reads all data which is organized with comments, columns of numbers and probably at the end comments again.

The result could be something like this:

```
; EXAMPLE:
; result=read_data_file('dat.txt')
; help,result,/str
;** Structure <135d458>, 5 tags, length=104, refs=1:
; FILE STRING 'dat.txt'
; SEPARATOR STRING ','
; DATA DOUBLE Array[3, 3]
; COMMENTS LONG 1
; HEADER STRING Array[1]
```

You'll find it here:

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\_icglib/idl\_source/idl\_html/dbase/download/read\_data\_file.tar.gz

## regards

Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\_icglib/idl\_lib\_intro.h tml

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Subject: Re: importing ascii files

Posted by mperrin+news on Thu, 11 Jul 2002 22:29:24 GMT

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Heather < lehmann\_heather@hotmail.com> wrote:

- > We have a program written in IDL that extracts data and puts it into a
- > text file. We want to put the columns of the text file into some kind
- > of storage device so that we can access the columns separately in
- > another IDL program. We are trying to write a program that
- > incorporates the import\_ascii macro, but are open to any other ideas
- > at this point.

The Goddard IDL Astro library has a "readcol" function which may be suitable for your purposes.

Marshall