
Subject: Re: 48 variable limit?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 05 May 2003 20:12:19 GMT

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Shane Mayor (shane@ucar.edu) writes:

- > I've been given an ASCII file of numbers 50 columns wide
- > by 6600 rows long, blank-space separated values.
- > I've tried both read_ascii and readf, reads and have concluded
- > that these routines can only read up to 48 variables in a row.
- > Can anybody confirm this and/or suggest alternatives?

Uh, I don't think so. I'd look elsewhere for the problem. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: 48 variable limit?

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Mon, 05 May 2003 20:38:06 GMT

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"Shane Mayor" <shane@ucar.edu> wrote in message
news:4d5b78c4.0305051207.34690816@posting.google.com...

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- > by 6600 rows long, blank-space separated values.
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Shane,

Are you reading the data line-by-line like this?

```
readf, lun, a01, a02, a03, a04, a05, ..., a48
```

If so, then it's possible you could run into a limit.

Why not try

```
data = fltarr(50, 6600)
readf, lun, data
```

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>

Subject: Re: 48 variable limit?
Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Tue, 06 May 2003 14:39:23 GMT
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"Shane Mayor" <shane@ucar.edu> wrote in message
news:4d5b78c4.0305051207.34690816@posting.google.com...

> Hi,
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> I've tried both read_ascii and readf, reads and have concluded
> that these routines can only read up to 48 variables in a row.
> Can anybody confirm this and/or suggest alternatives?
> Thanks much,
> Shane Mayor
> NCAR
> Boulder, CO

Hi Shane,

As a wild guess as to why it doesn't work, are there some columns that
are not seperated by a space (like a -9999 used for a bad data file, in a
column only 4 digits wide)?

I did a quicky test, and it works fine.

Here is the idl code:
filename = 'C:\junktest.txt'
d = read_ascii(filename)
help,d
end

Here is the txt file (54 columns, 3 rows)

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
```

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

And here is the command log

IDL> .GO

% Compiled module: UNIQ.

D STRUCT = -> <Anonymous> Array[1]

IDL> help,d,/st

** Structure <17039a8>, 1 tags, length=648, data length=648, refs=1:

FIELD01 FLOAT Array[54, 3]

IDL> print,d.field01

1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000
1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000

7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000
7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000

4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000
4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000

1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000

1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000
1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000

7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000
7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000

4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000
4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000

1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000

1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000
1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000

7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000
7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000

4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000 1.00000 2.00000 3.00000
4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000

1.00000 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000 6.00000 7.00000 8.00000 9.00000

Subject: Re: 48 variable limit?

Posted by [shane](#) on Tue, 06 May 2003 20:09:38 GMT

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I'm very embarrassed: there is no limit.
There really are only 48 columns in the file
when I had totally convinced myself there were 50.
I'm clearly getting senile. Thanks for your
suggestions and my apologies for bothering you all.

Shane

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:<MPG.192073907dc93057989b81@news.frii.com>...

> Shane Mayor (shane@ucar.edu) writes:

>

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>> by 6600 rows long, blank-space separated values.

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>> that these routines can only read up to 48 variables in a row.

>> Can anybody confirm this and/or suggest alternatives?

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> Uh, I don't think so. I'd look elsewhere for the problem. :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Subject: Re: 48 variable limit?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 06 May 2003 20:29:22 GMT

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Shane Mayor (shane@ucar.edu) writes:

> I'm very embarrassed: there is no limit.

> There really are only 48 columns in the file

> when I had totally convinced myself there were 50.

> I'm clearly getting senile. Thanks for your

> suggestions and my apologies for bothering you all.

Oh, goodness. If we all start apologizing for all the
idiotic things we've said on this newsgroup there will

be no end of it.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say *I* have no intention of going next. :-(

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

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Subject: Re: 48 variable limit?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 06 May 2003 20:39:52 GMT

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"Shane Mayor" <shane@ucar.edu> wrote in message

news:4d5b78c4.0305061209.82be99d@posting.google.com...

> I'm very embarassed:...

I hereby declare a contest for most embarrassing mistake on comp.lang.idl-pvwave. First person entries only, and remember: Google News knows all.

I'll accept this as your entry Shane, but frankly I don't think it's going to be competitive.

I am biding my time before I submit my entry.

--

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"

m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)
