

Hi all,

I am quite new to IDL and I am having what appears to be a serious problem with IDL on a G4 Mac. I could really use some help. I read the thread about the known G4 problem and it is not clear to me whether this problem is related or not. I hope I am doing something stupid and someone can point this out to me, but the code is very simple and I am stumped.

I am running IDL 6.0 on a Mac G4 running 10.2.6.

The problem is that when I read ascii data from a file that has more than 2 columns, the data does not read properly in columns beyond 1 and 2. The data is fine up to array item 255, but after that I get random integer data. This sounds somewhat similar to the G4 problem discussed earlier so I am wondering if it is the same issue and what I can do about it.

Here is the code that I am using:

```
datatemplate=ascii_template( '~jacksond/testdata.txt')
data=read_ascii(filepath('testdata.txt',root_dir='~jacksond'),template=datatemplate)
for i=250,260 do begin
    print, data.field1[i], data.field2[i], data.field3[i], data.field4[i]
endfor
END
```

I have included the data file that I am using. It is simple 4 columns of tab delimited floating point data with 512 entries. During the `ascii_template` command, I choose "fixed width" on step one and the defaults for everything else. The output of this program looks like the following:

-0.996365	0.0734110	2.00308	0.0737210
-0.997232	0.0611700	2.00226	0.0614770
-0.997951	0.0489190	2.00159	0.0492240
-0.998521	0.0366610	2.00107	0.0369630
-0.998941	0.0243960	2.00070	0.0246970
-0.999212	0.0121280	2.00048	0.0124270
-0.999334	-0.000140000	3.00000	4.00000
-0.999306	-0.0124100	5.00000	6.00000
-0.999128	-0.0246800	6.00000	9.00000
-0.998800	-0.0369500	3.00000	1.00000
-0.998322	-0.0492100	5.00000	4.00000

while the output of the command `head -n 260 testdata.txt | tail -n 10`

```
-0.996365  0.073411  2.003076  0.073721
-0.997232  0.061170  2.002258  0.061477
-0.997951  0.048919  2.001589  0.049224
-0.998521  0.036661  2.001069  0.036963
-0.998941  0.024396  2.000701  0.024697
-0.999212  0.012128  2.000482  0.012427
-0.999334 -0.000143  2.000414  0.000155
-0.999306 -0.012415  2.000496 -0.012116
-0.999128 -0.024686  2.000729 -0.024386
-0.998800 -0.036953  2.001111 -0.036652
```

As you can see, the IDL data in columns 3 and 4 "go bad" at array element 256. In fact, I just noticed that in column 2, the data beginning at element 256 is no longer exactly the same as the original. Weird.

I'd appreciate any help/advice I can get on this problem.

David

--

David P. Jackson
Associate Professor
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Dickinson College
Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 245-1073
