
Subject: IDL string input HELP!!

Posted by [RichW](#) on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 16:15:44 GMT

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I have a IDL program that reads in ASCII data and is to plot 2 columns of the 8 that are in the file. Right now, I am using makeplot & read_ascii in my code, which is fine except when it wants to read in the times - which are given in the form HH:MM:SS.MS. When IDL outputs the ASCII data in a terminal window, the time will come up as HH.0000, which is not good. It was recommend to me to read in the date as a string, but I didn't work. I am sure I messed it up. Any help or suggestions would be appreciated. Here is the code that I have so far:

```
PRO makeplot, ac_ho_mfi_86586_revised
  a = read_ascii(ac_ho_mfi_86586_revised)
  print, a.field1
  x = a.field1(1, *)
  y = a.field1(3, *)
  plot, x, y, psym = 4
```

end

Subject: Re: IDL string input HELP!!

Posted by [btt](#) on Wed, 14 Jul 2004 16:59:13 GMT

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RichW wrote:

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> end
>
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Hi,

I suggest that you look at the ASCII_TEMPLATE function to define your data file.

Assign 'string' to the timestamp column. Once you read in the data using the template, you will have to transform HH:MM:SS to a numerical value - search with GOOGLE on this newsgroup for time transformations.

Ben
