
Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error

Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 19:06:32 GMT

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"Tyler" <newbie16@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:f393b55a.0412071054.3ca1e6d3@posting.google.com...

```
...
> ===== SNIP
> =====
>
> [thayes@somemachine ~virIDL]$ idl
> IDL Version 6.0 (linux x86 m32). (c) 2003, Research Systems, Inc.
>
> IDL> .compile READCOL
>
>          tst = strnumber(var[i],val,hex=hex[i])      ;Valid
> number?
>
>          ^
> % Syntax error.
> At: /home/thayes/virIDL/READCOL.pro, Line 244
> % 1 Compilation error(s) in module READCOL.
> IDL>
> ===== SNIP
> =====
```

Offhand, I'd say you may have a problem with your path,
and IDL cannot find the function strnumber().

Try:

```
IDL> .comp strnumber
```

and see what happens. (does IDL find it? if so, run the code again.
If not, check your path !PATH and add the appropriate folders).
My guess is that IDL cannot find the function, and therefore interprets
strnumber as an array, and the hex=hex is a syntax error.

Cheers,
bob

PS I think strnumber is a function in the astronomy library, so it doesn't
come with IDL.

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 19:14:00 GMT

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Tyler writes:

> I hope someone can help me out here. First off, I am an IDL virgin,

Oooh, a... Oh, never mind. :-(

> and making my first plots as of today...So I apologize if my question
> is trivial, but there doesn;t seem to be an answer posted for the
> compliation error i get.

>

> Presently, I am trying to contour up some data [x,y,z] and have it
> stored in an ASCII file xyz.dat.

>

> I am intend to use the READCOL function to open and read the data, but
> I can't seem to compile the READCOL program. (I assumed I have to
> compile READCOL first before i can call it in my own procedure.)
> Anyways, I get the following error:

>

> ===== SNIP

> =====

>

> [thayes@somemachine ~virIDL]\$ idl

> IDL Version 6.0 (linux x86 m32). (c) 2003, Research Systems, Inc.

>

> IDL> .compile READCOL

>

> tst = strnumber(var[i],val,hex=hex[i]) ;Valid

> number?

>

^

> % Syntax error.

> At: /home/thayes/virIDL/READCOL.pro, Line 244

> % 1 Compilation error(s) in module READCOL.

> IDL>

> ===== SNIP

> =====

>

> I have absolutely NO IDEA what is wrong here....Have I downloaded the
> wrong version? The one I have was last modified in May 2002.

No, you have the right version. But you don't have all the programs you need. Look at the header to READCOL and you will find a section entitled "Procedures Called". You will need all those other routines, too. In fact, just go download the whole NASA Astronomy library. You could do a LOT worse and you will probably learn something by reading some well-written code!

<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/homepage.html>

> Cheers and thanks in advance for any help or advice you may have.

Get a good book. There are a couple. :-)

> PS - My actual procedure to create the contoured data set, which calls
> READCOL is also given at the end of the posting. Any suggestions are
> greatly appreciated!

Uh, well. We don't normally use the PostScript device as a display device. (Actually, this seems to be common in astronomy. Are you an astronomer?) Most of us look at plots on the computer display. Then, when we see something we like, we make a PostScript file of it. You will get the hang of it soon. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 19:18:18 GMT
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Tyler writes:

> I am intend to use the READCOL function to open and read the data, but
> I can't seem to compile the READCOL program. (I assumed I have to
> compile READCOL first before i can call it in my own procedure.)

No, this is entirely wrong. If you have to compile
any procedure or function in IDL in order to run
it, the procedure or function is written incorrectly.
Here are some guidelines:

<http://www.dfanning.com/tips/namefiles.html>

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [newbie16](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 20:06:28 GMT
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Thanks for the advice and links, they have been helpful...I guess I was so used to using FORTRAN that I figured I had to compile as well!

As for PS output, I have to include the figure in a poster, (next week at the AGU in San Fran)...I thought I would cut to the chase and get output immediately I could include in my Poster.

I think I will start little slower with my first procedure and go from there.

--> For Bob,

Are you THE Bob Stockwell of S-Transform fame??? I did my Masters with Lalu in 2001!

Cheers and thanks again,

Tyler

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 21:34:07 GMT
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newbie16@hotmail.com writes:

> Are you THE Bob Stockwell of S-Transform fame??? I

S-Transform fame!? Now come on, let's have this story! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 00:46:54 GMT
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<newbie16@hotmail.com> wrote in message > --> For Bob,
>
> Are you THE Bob Stockwell of S-Transform fame??? I did my Masters with
> Lalu in 2001!
>
> Cheers and thanks again,
>
> Tyler

Hi Tyler,
yes i also was a student with Lalu, back in the good ole days.
What are you up to these days?

Cheers,
bob

homepage:
<http://co-ra.com/~stockwel/index.php>
the *new* ST forums
<http://co-ra.com/~stockwel/modules.php?op=modload&name=P NphpBB2&file=index>

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [newbie16](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 01:42:31 GMT
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Hi Bob,

Talk about a small world...I even had you as my TA in optics one year
as an undergrad...

Anyways, I left after my MSc and tried research on Bay St. for a bit
and an opportunity came up at Western for me to start PhD on Earthquake
simulations. I'm about a year and a half into it and am enjoying the
project a lot. I had out to San Fran next week for the AGU and am
trying to get some quality figures out for my Poster...a little
stressful, but thats how it goes, eh? As of today, I had never written
anything in IDL and am finally getting the output I need.

Lalu says Hi, and mentioned that now that I'm starting to use IDL, it
would be a good exercise for me to learn IDL by writing up the
S-Transform as a .pro file....I'll save that for after the
hoildays...and don;t help! (I should learn this on my own.)

I hope all is well. I hear the S-Transform is finding more and more applications everyday.

Cheers,

t.

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [newbie16](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 01:43:00 GMT
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Hi Bob,

Talk about a small world...I even had you as my TA in optics one year as an undergrad...

Anyways, I left after my MSc and tried research on Bay St. for a bit and an opportunity came up at Western for me to start PhD on Earthquake simulations. I'm about a year and a half into it and am enjoying the project a lot. I had out to San Fran next week for the AGU and am trying to get some quality figures out for my Poster...a little stressful, but thats how it goes, eh? As of today, I had never written anything in IDL and am finally getting the output I need.

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I hope all is well. I hear the S-Transform is finding more and more applications everyday.

Cheers,

t.

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [Evelien Vanhollebeke](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 08:24:06 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

>
>

> Uh, well. We don't normally use the PostScript device as a display
> device. (Actually, this seems to be common in astronomy. Are you an
> astronomer?) Most of us look at plots on the computer display.
> Then, when we see something we like, we make a PostScript file
> of it. You will get the hang of it soon. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>

Yes I am an astronomer and yes I always use the PostScript device. I
couldn't find how you can save the plots on the computer display to a ps
file, that could come in very handy. So if you can tell me where to find
it...

Cheers,
Evelien

--

Evelien Vanhollebeke
Instituut voor Sterrenkunde
<http://www.ster.kuleuven.ac.be>

Subject: Re: READCOL compilation error
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 15:06:51 GMT
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Evelien Vanhollebeke writes:

> Yes I am an astronomer and yes I always use the PostScript device. I
> couldn't find how you can save the plots on the computer display to a ps
> file, that could come in very handy. So if you can tell me where to find
> it...

Well, you could start by looking at any program
on my web page. :-)

Well written programs don't need much of anything special to
be done to them to get them to display in PostScript.
I've pretty much devoted a career to advocating writing
device-independent IDL programs. (Probably why I feel so
weary.) Most of what I know about the subject is already
on my web page, and the whole second half of my book is
devoted to nothing else. I think the information is out
there somewhere.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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