
Subject: READCOL compilation error

Posted by [newbie16](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 18:54:49 GMT

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Hi there,

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

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

Tyler

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!

---===<0>===---

pro grvcontour

; This is a preliminary attempt at creating a contoured data set
; of the gravity values from GRAV.f. The data output was formatted
; by a simple shell script called datacut.sh.

; DATACUT.SH produces output as a ".dat" file:

;-----
;col 1 |col 2 | col 3 |
;-----

; <x[km]> <y[km]> <grav[microGal]>|
;-----

; Moreover, the data output by DATACUT is space delimited with varying
; number lengths. As such it is not totally "formatted" in a regular
; way. Therefore use READCOL

;-----

; Set the printing device to "ps" output

set_plot,'PS'

device,/color,bits=8

device, filename='xyz.ps'

; First we must open and read the data file using the READCOL.pro

; program. See the notes in the READCOL comments for usage

; READCOL is from

; <http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch-bin/> \$

; getpro/library01.html?READCOL

FMT = 'F,F,F'

READCOL, 'xyz.dat',F=FMT,xlong,ylat,grav

; Now we must smooth the data using an interpolation scheme.

; There is some documentation (old) which suggests that triangulate

; doesn't work well with large datasets and thus congrid should be

; used instead, which effectively resamples the data set...but let's

; try this anyways.

triangulate,xlong,ylat,grvtri

; Below are some extra vectors which may be used to make a finer mesh

; for the resampling of the gravity data. Uncomment later

;spacing = [1.0, 1.0]

;limits = [0.0, 0.0, 600.0, 600.0]

grvgrid = trigrid(xlong,ylat,grav,grvtri,xgrid=xgrid, \$
 ygrid=ygrid,/quintic)

; Below is the contour plot of the data with filled spaces between the

; contours.

```
contour,grvgrid,xgrid,ygrid,/cell_fill
```

```
; Alternatively, uncomment to make a surface plot of the data  
;surface,grvgrid,xgrid,ygrid
```

```
; Must close the "PS" file to get proper output  
device,/close_file  
end
```
