
Subject: Re: Problems reading ASCII data

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Fri, 17 Dec 2004 21:17:54 GMT

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> I am trying to read in some large ASCII files. I would like to put
> these columns into an array, but I am having a problem with the the 5th
> column (e.g. 1/1). IDL changes this to 1.00, when I want it to be a
> string "1/1" and the other ones to be formatted as double/integer.
>
> This works well using IDL's read_ascii program, but the headers have a
> +/- character that makes it 'not a valid ascii file' according to IDL.
>
> Below is a sample of the data file.
>

<snip>

>
> Is there a quick way to read these data into an array, where it will
> ignore the header and each column has its own data format?
>

I am assuming that if you're having a problem with the 5th column then
you've figured out how to open the file, skip the header, and read in
some data. What does your FORMAT string look like? Are these fixed
length fields?

-Rick
