
Subject: Reading GPS NMEA via serial port
Posted by [andrew.cool](#) on Mon, 21 Mar 2005 23:17:31 GMT
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Hello All,

Having read a few recent posts about using the serial DLM from the RSI user Contrib code site to read GPS data streams, I thought I'd give it a try with my El Cheapo GPS at home.

Success to date is mixed.

Yes, I'm getting a data stream, and I can pick out an occasional UT time stamp, but the rest leaves me flummoxed.

I gather that the returned NMEA sentence are human readable ASCII, a la :-
\$GPGGA,170834,4124.8963,N,08151.6838,W,1,05,1.5,280.2,M,-34.0,M,,,*75

and the the buffer returned from the COMM_READ call is of type BYTE.
(I initially had that set to 'string', and Boy was that an IDL Killer!)

So I should be able to spot a byte sequence for "GPGGA" in the above 82 byte long NMEA sentence, i.e. a sequence of 71,80,71,71,65.

But no. Printing out all the STRING'd valid [A..Z,a..z) characters in the data stream produces rubbish.

What am I not understanding about getting recognizable NMEA sentences outta my GPS unit?

I spent a balmy evening out on my back lawn, armed with laptop and GPS, programming and swatting mossies, with not much to show for it other than goobledeegook and itchy red lumps.

Cheers,

Andrew (aka Itchy & Scratchy)

DSTO, Adelaide, Oz

Subject: Re: Reading GPS NMEA via serial port
Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Tue, 05 Apr 2005 00:51:42 GMT
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On Mon, 4 Apr 2005, Andrew Cool wrote:
> I haven't progressed much further on my own code recently...

Pretty much off topic, but I'd like to direct you and anyone following this thread to a very cool website:

<http://www.gpsdrawing.com/>

Some highlights:

tic-tac-toe on the city of Hollywood, 3D GPS sculptures via skydiving, etc...

<http://www.gpsdrawing.com/animations.htm>

-k.
