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Subject: Re: Loading ASCII data into an array  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sat, 15 Oct 2005 15:18:00 GMT  
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noekains@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi,  
> I'm a new IDL-convert and I am still struggling a bit with some of the  
> features.  
> I would like to load a large - 26 columns, 41063 rows - ASCII file into  
> a 26 columns 41063 rows array in order to be able to access individual  
> elements afterwards. I've been trying to use the read\_ascii procedure  
> to do this, using  
>  
> data=read\_ascii('aqu1.asc', data\_start=13)  
>  
> but this then defines an anonymous structure with 26 fields. When I'm  
> trying to access an element of the data array other than [0,0], I get  
> the message "Attempt to subscript DATA with <INT ( 8)> is  
> out of range."

Hi Noah

try help,data[0].(0) vor the first element of first column  
read\_ascii returns an arrayed structure because by this each column could  
have a different type

the whole first column is  
help,data.(0)

> I've also tried creating a template with the ascii\_template command,  
> but I get the same problem. Another thing I tried was to create a [26,  
> 41063] floating points array, then using  
>  
> OpenR, lun, 'aqu1.asc', /Get\_Lun  
> ReadF, lun, data  
> Free\_Lun, lun  
>  
>  
> but I then get the message  
>  
> READF: Input conversion error. Unit: 100, File: C:\RS\IDL61\aqu1.asc

Do you have probably a comment line before the array of data begins? If so  
you need only to overread this line and it goes well.

>

> Is there anyway to simply load the ASCII data into an array, in the  
> same way as you get simple arrays when you load image data with  
> procedures such as read\_jpeg or read\_dicom ?

Yes,

see above.

An alternative could be our read\_data\_file from our library at  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

cheers  
Reimar

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Subject: Re: Loading ASCII data into an array  
Posted by [noekains@gmail.com](mailto:noekains@gmail.com) on Sat, 15 Oct 2005 18:55:16 GMT  
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Hi Reimar,  
Thanks a lot for your help- indeed there were a few comment lines in  
the file. I actually deleted them manually- I suppose there is a  
keyword to skip them, like 'data\_start' in the read procedures?  
Best wishes,  
Noah

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