
Subject: reading large multicolumn data file
Posted by [bio_amateur](#) on Thu, 05 Aug 2010 23:54:19 GMT
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I have a data file (a few hundreds MB). This is a text file in the format X Y1 Y2 Y3 (first column is the common x-axis data, next columns are data). I can read the data and plot easily with xmgrace using

```
xmgrace -nxy data.dat
```

which take a few seconds to plot. Now, I want to use IDL to read this file and display using iTool. What I did was

```
data = read_ascii(filename)
myPlotData = data.(0)
rows = (size(myPlotData, /dimension))[0]
for ii=1, rows do begin
    iPlot, myPlotData[0,*], myPlotData[ii,*], /overplot
end
```

This method takes so long. Could someone good at this can point out a solution for me.

Thanks,
Tuan

Dept. Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
GMU
