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Subject: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [Rob Rutten](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2013 20:01:15 GMT

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I started using read\_ascii with a corresponding GUI-produced template\_ascii\_template('filename'). It works fine but the reading is limited to 80-column line width. I didn't see a width setting as for readf and writef etc. Advise welcome!

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Subject: Re: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2013 22:03:50 GMT

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Rob Rutten writes:

> I started using read\_ascii with a corresponding GUI-produced template\_ascii\_template('filename'). It works fine but the reading is limited to 80-column line width. I didn't see a width setting as for readf and writef etc. Advise welcome!

I would say don't use READ\_ASCII. I haven't had to use it in 20+ years of IDL programming. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [Phillip Bitzer](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2013 22:24:25 GMT

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> I would say don't use READ\_ASCII.

You may want to check out ReadCol from the Astro library.

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Subject: Re: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [Rob Rutten](#) on Sun, 20 Oct 2013 13:59:40 GMT

Thanks Philip!

Readcol.pro (I found it in my ssw.lib) is indeed the answer. I had to extend it to 60 columns but that is trivial: just add v-values into the pro declaration (I guess it is not possible to use a double array to fill with columns).

Sofar I used read\_struct.pro from the Sloan sdssidl but it has difficulty with erratic string variables.

So indeed I can stop mucking with read\_ascii!

This was my first excursion into this forum. Good experience!

Best, Rob

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Subject: Re: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [SonicKenking](#) on Mon, 21 Oct 2013 00:34:42 GMT

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On Sunday, October 20, 2013 7:01:15 AM UTC+11, Rob Rutten wrote:

> I started using read\_ascii with a corresponding GUI-produced  
template\_ascii\_template('filename'). It works fine but the reading is limited to 80-column line width.  
I didn't see a width setting as for readf and writef etc. Advise welcome!

Interesting but I didn't notice any width limit on my IDL 8.2 and 6.4 (Windows 7) ...

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Subject: Re: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 21 Oct 2013 13:31:05 GMT

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Hello,

On 10/19/2013 04:01 PM, Rob Rutten wrote:

> I started using read\_ascii with a corresponding GUI-produced  
> template\_ascii\_template('filename'). It works fine but the reading is  
> limited to 80-column line width. I didn't see a width setting as  
> for readf and writef etc. Advise welcome!

Quite apart from the READ\_ASCII issue, widths for ASCII files are set in the OPEN statement via the WIDTH keyword:

[http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/OPEN.html#O\\_828691053\\_889787](http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/OPEN.html#O_828691053_889787)

If not specified the default is, you guessed it, 80 columns.

cheers,

paulv

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Subject: Re: how to undo 80-column line width maximum in read\_ascii?

Posted by [Rob Rutten](#) on Mon, 21 Oct 2013 13:58:27 GMT

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@ Sonickenking: the 80-character limit sits in the ascii\_template.pro GUI to make a reading template.

@ Paul van Delst: yes, I found the width keyword for openr etc but read\_ascii.pro and ascii\_template.pro want file names, not units.

Anyhow, readcol.pro is indeed a better solution, no GUI clicking needed.

Thanks for all the response! Rob

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