
Subject: Re: "standard" ASCII file format

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 16 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Thomas Egi wrote:

>
> Hi everyone,
>
> in the field of electric circuit simulation there is an "industry
> standard" for simulation output called CSDF (common simulation data
> format), which can be read by all of the visualization tools. Is there a
> corresponding "de facto standard file format" for data import in the
> world of pv-wave or IDL? And if so, where can I get information on that?
>
> Thank you for any hints
>
> Thomas

The IDL documentation contains several READ... routines supporting various file formats. Basically you can read ASCII and binary data, and there are routines to handle in/and output of net-CDF, CDF and HDF format (I am not familiar with those personally though). Also, there are several image formats that can be handled, e.g. GIF, JPEG, TIFF. If you just start using IDL you may have some difficulties reading data (I guess that happens to everyone). If you are dealing with ASCII files you can try my readdata.pro program which you can download from the webpage below. This allows you to skip arbitrary amounts of header lines and recognize variable names if you tell it where to find them. However, it only deals with numerical data - mixed type stuff is somewhat trickier, but (as David pointed out): it can be done.

Regards,
Martin.

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Subject: Re: "standard" ASCII file format
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 16 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Thomas Egi (egith@cs.tu-berlin.de) writes:

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> format), which can be read by all of the visualization tools. Is there a
> corresponding "de facto standard file format" for data import in the
> world of pv-wave or IDL? And if so, where can I get information on that?

There is no "standard" IDL or PV-Wave data file format.
If you have data, you can read it. Period. (Well, all right,
occasionally--for the odd data format--you have to muck
around a bit. But it **always** gets read in.) That's what
make IDL and PV-Wave so nice to work with.

If you are thinking of file output that can be read by other
packages, then I think the de facto standard may just be
a flat binary file stored in XDR format so that it is portable
across machine architectures. Be sure to convert integers to
longs if you want to use the data in your C or Fortran
applications.

Cheers,

David

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