
Subject: Re: Format strings with comma separated lists
Posted by [Vapuser](#) on Mon, 10 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Well, am I'm surprised!

Just for a lark, I tried this

```
IDL> openw,1,'/tmp/delme.junk'
IDL> v=findgen(20)
IDL> printf,1,v,format='(4(f5.2,;,""))'
(NB, this comes out looking like
 0.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00,
 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00,
 8.00, 9.00,10.00,11.00,
12.00,13.00,14.00,15.00,
16.00,17.00,18.00,19.00 )

IDL> close,1
IDL> openr,1,'/tmp/delme.junk'
IDL> v[*]=0
IDL> print,minmax(v)
 0.00000  0.00000
IDL> v=reform(v,4,5)
IDL> help,v
V          FLOAT    = Array[4, 5]
IDL> readf,1,v
IDL> print,v
 0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000
 4.00000  5.00000  6.00000  7.00000
 8.00000  9.00000 10.0000  11.0000
12.0000  13.0000 14.0000  15.0000
16.0000  17.0000 18.0000  19.0000
; Or, you can read it into a vector
```

```
IDL> v=fltarr(20)
IDL> point_lun,1,0
IDL> readf,1,v
IDL> print,v
 0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000  5.00000
 6.00000  7.00000  8.00000  9.00000 10.0000  11.0000
12.0000  13.0000 14.0000  15.0000 16.0000  17.0000
18.0000  19.0000
IDL>
```

Apparently, the short answer is you don't need to use format strings on input, provided, I guess, the data is homogeneous and with a constant number of columns(?); IDL understands that you don't want the

comma.

You can even read the data if there isn't a constant number of columns. I edited the file so that it looked like;

```
0.00, 1.00, 2.00,  
4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00,  
8.00, 9.00,10.00,11.00,  
12.00,13.00,14.00,15.00,  
16.00,17.00,18.00,19.00
```

and read it with;

```
IDL> v=fltarr(19)  
IDL> readf,1,v  
IDL> print,v  
0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  4.00000  5.00000  6.00000  
7.00000  8.00000  9.00000  10.0000  11.0000  12.0000  
13.0000  14.0000  15.0000  16.0000  17.0000  18.0000  
19.0000  
IDL>
```

I was going to suggest a combination of string reads and STR_SEP. Doesn't look like you need it.

(By the way, this is a

```
IDL> print,!version  
{ mipseb IRIX unix 5.1.1 Jul 20 1998} system  
)
```

William

philaldis@geocities.com (Phil Aldis) writes:

```
> I hoping that someone else understands format strings better than I  
> do, because I can't get them to work at all. I was wondering if anyone  
> knew how to read a comma delimited list using format strings, such as  
>  
> Readf, lun, variable, FORMAT='(n(F6.6, :, ","))'  
>  
> ...this is the way I would think that you should do it but this just  
> tells me that end of input record encountered.  
>  
> Does anyone know how to do it?#  
>
```

> Cheers,
> Phil Aldis

--

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