
Subject: Re: Comma separators

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 18 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Simon de Vet wrote:

>
> I am reading in data that looks like the following:
>
> CHATHAM ISLAND - NEW ZEALAND (DOE),,,,,,,,,,
> 43.92i½S,176.50i½W,,,,,,,,,
> 16-Sep-1983,11-Oct-1996,,,,,,,,,
> Mon,Stat,Cl,NO3,SO4,Na ,SeaSalt,nssSO4,MSA,Dust,NH4
> of,Param,Air,Air,Air,Air,Air,Air,Air,Air,Air
> Yr,*,i½g/m3,i½g/m3,i½g/m3,i½g/m3,i½g/m3,
> i½g/m3,i½g/m3,i½g/m3,i½g/m3
> Jan,N,58,58,58,58,58,57,0,0,58
> Jan,Mean,7.330,0.120,1.572,4.233,13.766,0.508,#N/A,#N/A,0.10 3
> Jan,StdDev,2.788,0.055,0.412,1.479,4.811,0.249,#N/A,#N/A,0.0 51
>
> Which continues until the end of the year, and then another observation
> station follows the same general format.
>
> I want to be able to read in the data into an array. I can already take
> out the header, but I cannot read in the data.

What do you consider the header?

> By default, IDL is
> treating each line as one entry, not recognizing the commas as entry
> separators. I've read the help extensively, but as a non-fortran user,
> the input format documentation makes my brain hurt.

Let's say you have:

```
Jan,N,58,58,58,58,58,57,0,0,58
Jan,Mean,7.330,0.120,1.572,4.233,13.766,0.508,#N/A,#N/A,0.10 3
Jan,StdDev,2.788,0.055,0.412,1.479,4.811,0.249,#N/A,#N/A,0.0 51
Feb,N,58,58,58,58,58,57,0,0,58
Feb,Mean,7.330,0.120,1.572,4.233,13.766,0.508,#N/A,#N/A,0.10 3
Feb,StdDev,2.788,0.055,0.412,1.479,4.811,0.249,#N/A,#N/A,0.0 51
..etc..
```

How about:

```
char_buffer = ''
```

```
REPEAT BEGIN
```

```
  READF, lun, char_buffer
```

```
input_data = STR_SEP( char_buffer, ',' )
```

```
....here split up the data how you want by, say, testing  
    input_data[0] == month (Jan, Feb, Mar, ....  
    input_data[1] == data type (N, Mean, StdDev)  
....and checking for invalid data, e.g. the #N/A thingoes
```

```
ENDREP UNTIL EOF( lun )
```

paulv

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