
Subject: Re: Reading tab delimited string data (from MySQL)

Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Martin Schultz wrote:

```
> off the top of my head I can only think of using structures. You can
> dynamically create a template structure (just as you set up your
> column vectors) with Create_Struct, e.g. template =
> Create_Struct(id:0L, 'date',",", 'height',",", 'coverage',",", $
>         'yy',0L, 'yn',0L, 'ny',0L, 'nn',0L )
>
> Then you have two options:
> (1) if you don't know the number of rows coming out of your query
> (well, this applies more to results stored in a file), you can either
> use a linecount program and use approach 2 afterwards, or you still
> loop line by line and use a "block data" technique to enlarge your
> structure array by e.g. 100 elements at a time.
>
> (2) if you know how many lines to expect, you should be able to "read"
> your data as
>   result = replicate(template, 5)
>   reads, data, result
```

Martin,

Actually, this works if I use "reads" with a format statement, but I also had to issue the mysql call so that it returns the dump in "table" format (spawn, 'mysql -t sql_script', data), rather than in TAB delimited format. The strlen() of each record was different for the TAB delimited records, but identically the same for table formatted output (which is "|" delimited).

Thanks for the great nudge in the right direction!
"reads" with a data structure is certainly the way to go.
I read everything in as a string, and specify through a keyword which variables need to be converted to long or float on output.

The 66980 records with 10 variables per record are now read into IDL in only 15 seconds, versus the 39 seconds of my first attempt.
424,000 records with 10 variables per record (10 columns or fields in the database) are read into IDL in only 104 seconds. Not too bad.

And now I do not have to purchase Dataminer and attempt to get it to work on my Linux box with MySQL!

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