
Subject: Re: Looking for IDL code to read Excel spreadsheet

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2001 13:40:34 GMT

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I use data from Excel all the time, but I always export them to a .CSV (commas separate values) format first. Then they can be read into IDL easily.
Alternatively, you could study one of the files with a hex editor to figure out where the data that you want actually starts and how the files are structured, and then use binary reads. Good luck -

John McFee wrote:

> I have a large number of Excel spreast sheets. They are in a very simple format.
> There is a 1-line four column header, followed by four columns of numbers, eg:
>
> Time Concentration Time2 Response
> 14:48:20 19.29 14:42:01 1.5
> 14:48:25 5.34 14:42:06 0.7
> ...etc.
>
> I want to read in the numbers for processing in IDL. I could, within Excel,
> export the data to an ascii file, but there are a LOT of files to do. Is there
> an IDL routine that will read a simple Excel spreadsheet like this? (To make
> matters worse, I run IDL on a Sun Sparcstation.)
>
> I apologize if this has been covered in the newsgroup and I've missed it, but I
> have looked in various FAQs and through the various IDL libraries and archives
> on the Web and have found nothing so far.
>
> Thanks
>
> John McFee
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