
Subject: Print format question for the Experts
Posted by [jmcfee](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2001 18:51:16 GMT
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I have a question which I think should have a simple answer. Being a master of kludging code for physics problems, it's not surprising that I haven't been able to figure it out. I'm hoping the experts in this group can.

I am using IDL to read records one at a time from a file and I want to print out a message that each record was successfully read, i.e., I would print something like the following for record 5:

Record number 5 out of 1500

Because I can have several thousand records in a run, I do not want to have a flowing list like:

...
Record number 1034 out of 1500
Record number 1035 out of 1500
Record number 1036 out of 1500
...etc.

but instead just want one line where the record number increments, i.e.,

Record number n out of 1500 [where n changes at the same spot]

To do that I tried the following code:

```
i=0
print, format=('$,"Record number ",t19,i6,t27,"out of " , t28,i6)',i+1,max_rec
for i=0,max_rec-1 do begin
    read_a_record_function
    print, format=('$,tl42,i6)', i+1
endfor
```

What I get is something like:

Record number 1 out of 1500 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14
15....etc.

In other words, the \$ format character supresses the new line, but each new print sets the next line's "left-right" pointer at the right edge of the previous printed line.

I've tried the t format char as well as the tl character with no more luck.

Does anybody know how to do this?

Thanks

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