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Subject: Re: String Data file

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 01 Aug 2003 06:57:27 GMT

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Pavel Romashkin wrote:

```
> This code doesn't seem to work because the first field, a string, reads
> in the entire line and the numerical variables won't have anything to read:
>
> IDL> line = {col1:"a string", col2:0.0, col3:0.0}
> IDL> OPENR, lun, 'untitled.txt', /GET_LUN
> IDL> READF, lun, data
> % READF: Input conversion error. Unit: 100
>      File: SCSI data:untitled.txt
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Would work if the string was the last in the line.
> Cheers,
> Pavel
>
```

I know but if we use a byte array and some calculations it is much easier.

My routine wasn't working because it determines chars und numbers in the first byte of each line to find out where are comments.

So it hangs because all looked like comments.

If the text column would be the second or later it works fine.

One workaround could be to add a dummy column in front of the text column.

best regards

Reimar

> Justin wrote:

```
>
>> Use structures. In fact always use structures for everything because
>> Structures Are Your Friends. They'll make your programs elegant.
>>
>> ;Use a structure to specify that each line is a string and two floats
```

```
>> line = {col1:"a string", col2:0.0, col3:0.0}
>> num_lines = 100
>> ;Make an array of structures
>> data = REPLICATE(line, num_lines)
>> OPENR, lun, 'yourfile.dat', /GET_LUN
>> ;Read in all the data in one go
>> READF, lun, data
>> FREE_LUN, lun
>> ;Print out some of the data
>> PRINT, data[5].col1, data[7:9].col2, data.col3
>>
```

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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