
Subject: Re: String Data file

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 30 Jul 2003 23:30:54 GMT

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"Karthikayan Balakrishnan" wrote...

```
> I have a data file that looks like this:
> abc 1 2
> def 3 4.5
> ghij 2.3 23.44
> ...
> ...
> The first column is string, the next two are
> floating point. Is there any way I can read such a file?
```

You have a couple of options depending on how strict a format your data file adheres to.

If your file has a strict format (which it doesn't look like it does) you can use the FORMAT keyword to READF to specify exactly how your data is read. For example:

```
OPENR, lun, 'yourfile.dat', /GET_LUN
while (not EOF(lun)) do begin
  READF, lun, str, fl1, fl2, FORMAT='(a5,1x,f3.1,1x,f5.2)'
  PRINT, str, fl1, fl2
endwhile
FREE_LUN, lun
```

would print your file to the screen, assuming your format was fixed.

If you don't have a strict format for your file, and it starts with a string, then you'll need to read the entire line in as a string and parse the line for your data. Something like this:

```
OPENR, lun, 'yourfile.dat', /GET_LUN
str = ""
while (not EOF(lun)) do begin
  READF, lun, str
  data = STRSPLIT(str, ' ', /EXTRACT)
  str = data[0]
  fl1 = FLOAT(data[1])
  fl2 = FLOAT(data[2])
  PRINT, str, fl1, fl2
endwhile
FREE_LUN, lun
```

Hope this helps!

-Rick
