
Subject: Re: question about readf

Posted by [rlayberry](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 09:48:23 GMT

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rlaybe...@hotmail.com wrote:

> Nicolas Decoster wrote:

>> rlayberry@hotmail.com a écrit :

>>> I am trying to get data out of MS-Excel and into IDL as a float array.

>>>

>>> I laboriously save each Excel worksheet as a csv.

>>>

>>> I then readf the CSV into a float array.

>>>

>>> The problem is that there are some missing data values. for example

>>> ,10.0,,,0.0,10

>>> so a missing data value is given by two commas next to each other.

>>> readf assumes no data is there and all my formatting goes to pot. is

>>> there anyway of getting either excel to write csvs out with dummy

>>> values (-99.9 for example) or of getting IDL to read in a missing data

>>> point as a dummy value?

>>>

>>> thanks in advance

>>>

>>> russ

>>>

>>

>> I had the same problem but with ";" instead of ",". Here is an extract

>> what I am doing :

>>

>> file = 'data.csv'

>> openr, lun, file, /get_lun

>> while not eof(lun) do begin

>> readf, lun, string

>> string = strcompress(string) ;; in case there are some
>> ;; spaces or tabs.

>> strings = strsplit(string, ',', /extract, /preserve_null)

>> n = n_elements(strings)

>> tab = fltarr(n)

>> for i = 0, n - 1 do begin

>> if (strings[i] eq "") then begin

>> tab[i] = -99.9

>> endif else begin

>> reads, strings[i], value ;; we can't use tab[i]

>> ;; directly, IDL needs

>> ;; a named variable for reads.

>> tab[i] = value

>> endelse

>> endfor

```

>>     help, tab
>>     print, tab
>>     endwhile
>>     free_lun, lun
>>
>> If your file contains this line: ",10.0,,,0.0,10", IDL writes:
>> TAB          FLOAT    = Array[6]
>> -99.9000 10.0000 -99.9000 -99.9000 0.00000 10.0000
>
> I have just been playing, and it seems to work when I do
>
> line to be read...
> 10,0,,10,10
>
> a=fltarr(6)
>
> readf,1,format='(5f)',a
>
> print,a
> 10,0,0,10
>
> I now have the probelm that I have some missing headers
>
> line to be read
> head1,head2,,head3
>
> and i want to read this into a strarr which gives head1,head2,0,head3
>
> any ideas?

```

sorry, just rereading your post and it has solved it with the
preserve_null...

thanks
