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Subject: Re: question about readf

Posted by [Nicolas Decoster](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 08:59:52 GMT

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rlayberry@hotmail.com a 1/2crit :

> 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
```

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